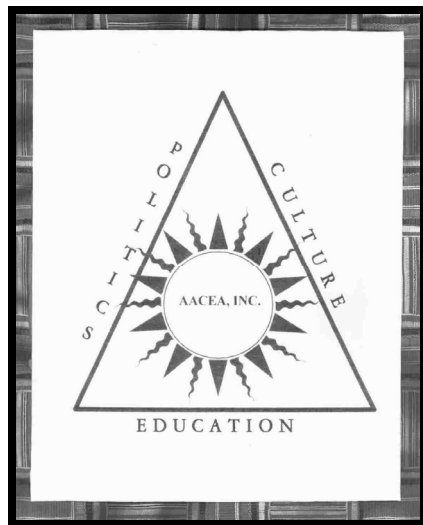


**AFRICAN-AMERICAN/CARIBBEAN
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION INC.**

AACEA INC

15TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR



YEAR 2012

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

STRIVING FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

With Pride

"We dedicate this edition to our supporters over the years"

African-American/Caribbean Education Association, Inc. (AAACEAINC) NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 1, 2012



Message from the
President
Rosalind O'Neal

*Celebrating
15th Anniversary Year*

On behalf of the African-American/Caribbean Education Association, I wish to take this opportunity to thank our many supporters for believing in us, over the years, and the challenging journey we have chosen to persevere. Community support has come from near and far bestowing upon us outstanding volunteers, financial blessings, committed collaborations, expert consultants, and endearing moral support. The path has been, and continues to be, productive and synonymous with valued friendships, partnerships, and new ideas that welcome creativity and dynamics for meaningful change. Embarking on this 15th year of service, AAACEAINC thanks our friends and supporters for enabling us to sustain and enjoy many successes that have brought us to today's defining moment; and thanks you for your trust.

What lies ahead? We are looking forward to a bright and promising future and a rigorous anniversary year. The executive board's conference weekend October 28-29, 2011, held in Washington, DC, addressed interesting initiatives and concepts in its strategic planning for 2012 that can impact aspects of our lives.

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Iconic Figures

Who is Henrietta Lacks?

She was an African-American woman whose DNA was taken, unbeknown to her, more than 60 years ago. Her cells became an immortal cell line used in medical research.



Henrietta Lacks 1920-1951

Her cells helped to produce the polio vaccine and others. Sadly, her family was never compensated. The Henrietta Lacks story tells us better awareness and protections from unscrupulous DNA practices are needed. AAACEAINC asks, "What can we do to protect our God-given DNA?" The organization will provide workshops during the year to explore this question and ask concerned individuals to join in the discussions that can, hopefully, affect the bioethical policies of biomedical research.

Biomedical Research

The story of Henrietta Lacks offends our sensibilities; however, we also realize the magnitude of her contributions to medical science and the benefits to our personal health. In the article "**Biomedical Research: Participating on Our Terms**", *Shawneequa Callier*, a bioethics and health law professor, explores the intricacies of biomedical research and the need for us to be empowered in this era of biotechnology. **Continues on P. 3**

The Smithsonian NMAAHC

National Museum of African-American History and Culture
AAACEAINC invites you to be a part of a historic initiative and to make an immortal investment of the African American experience that will be located on the National Mall. With the help of our community, this mission is possible. Read how you can help in this compelling article by **Shirley Phipps**, "**The Treasure of a People's History Can be Found through the Archives that are Preserved by the Smithsonian.**" **P. 2**

MAKING EDUCATION A TOP PRIORITY

Part IV: The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

The series continues with a focus on Blue Ribbon Schools. The U. S. Department of Education, since 1982, has reached out to communities across the nation to recognize outstanding school leadership and teaching practices in their Blue Ribbon Schools Program. Blue Ribbon schools encompass public and non-public elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve at high levels or where the achievement gap is narrowing. We take pride in presenting the story of **Dr. Laverne Nimmons** and the work she has accomplished in turning her school into a nationally acclaimed Blue Ribbon School. **Continues on P.2**



***“African Americans
on the Rise”***
By Dr. Laverne Nimmons
Principal P.S. 335K
Blue Ribbon School of
Excellence

The movement for public school improvement for poor children of color is not new. When Chancellor Rudy Crew was in charge of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) he rallied around low performing schools to make them better, he created support communities exclusively for these schools. He made sure that there was fortification and collaboration not punishment for these low performing schools. He encouraged schools by empowering educators raising expectations for everyone, providing professional development for teachers and principals, and funding schools with much needed financial resources.

When Chancellor Klein came into office the system was ripe for the idea of sustaining student achievement through accountability. Principals were forced to look at the data for individual students, classes, grades, and school. Lucy Calkins (TCRWP) came on the scene with Carmen Farina as Deputy Chancellor with the reading and writing workshop which gave all students an opportunity to read and write at and above grade level regardless of economic status. Students were to be treated as individuals not class size groups. And in reading and writing workshop every student is accounted for. There was never a child left behind.

Granville T. Woods Public School 335 was a product of both Chancellor Crew and Klein's leadership. Learning communities were created with high expectations for instruction and student achievement as well as teacher professional development needed to raise standards and increase rigor. We partnered with Teachers College and held everyone accountable for the best student educational outcomes possible. And together with teachers, parents, and students we became a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence for the 2010-2011 school year. Our fourth graders made the most progress of any other fourth grade in New York State in both English language arts and mathematics. P.S. 335 was the only school to win the National Blue Ribbon Award in Brooklyn that year and only one of two schools in the entire NYCDOE. This achievement accomplished by an African American Principal in an impoverished school, with a majority of students of color, during a time in history when we have the first African American President of the United States of America, makes us very proud and leaves us with the belief that nothing is impossible when the expectations are high and the community is empowered.

Smithsonian NMAAHC from Page 1

***“The Treasure of a People's History can be Found through the
Archives that are Preserved by the Smithsonian”***
By Shirley Phipps

The Smithsonian is an educational and research institute administered and funded by the government of the United

States and streams of funding from endowments, contributions, profits from retail operations, concessions, licensing activities and magazines.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) will be located on a five acre tract in Washington, D.C. adjacent to the Washington Monument. In recognition of the Museum's importance, congress has agreed to provide half of the Museum's \$500 million cost. The remaining \$250 million must be raised from private resources and private contributions. We the people, must take ownership of this historic endeavor as a major support.

You can become a chartered member with a gift of \$25. Your name will be permanently recorded on the Museum's electronic Honor Roll of Chartered Members for all to see. The Honor Roll will be given a place of prominence where it can be viewed by literally millions of visitors. Also, the Honor Roll will be available for viewing via the Museum's website, so even if you cannot visit the Museum in person, you will be able to see your name recognized as one of the earliest supporters. The Museum will be breaking ground this year, 2012, and opening its doors to the public in 2015. Presently, the NMAAHC has temporary space at the Smithsonian and visitors from all over the world learn about African-American history and culture.

This is a New Year to sow a seed that will bring a great harvest of knowledge. Take the initiative and become a charter member. This mission is possible!

Website: fricanAmerican.si.edu

(AACEAINC provides this information as a public service to the community; AACEAINC receives no compensation of any type to promote NMAAHC charter membership.)

President's Message cont'd from P. 1

The first day of the conference we were supporting our fellow board member, Prof. Callier, who was appearing as a panelist at the University of the District of Columbia in their discussions of the Henrietta Lacks story and DNA research. It was an empowering experience. Our genetic and DNA information should be sacred but we find the 20th and 21st centuries have not been lovers of our biological rights--it appears nothing is sacrosanct in the realm of technology and our physical bodies. Hence, there is cause for our greater health awareness and urgency for our holistic empowerment.

In this edition's featured article, "Iconic Figures", AACEAINC makes reference to biomedical research, an area we all agree, more than ever, demands our undivided attention. We are planning workshops that will delve into biotechnology and have the community join in the discussions that will ask the question, "What can we do to protect our God-given DNA?" Additionally, we are making the case for our community to become engaged in the monumental building and establishment of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC); NMAAHC needs the community's wholehearted support!

We are kicking the year off with "Celebrating Black History Month with Health Awareness, Cultural Heritage, and Dialogue" to be presented at the Queens Central Public Library on February 11, 2012 from 1-4 pm. **Cont'd on P. 14**



“Biomedical Research: Participating on Our Terms”

by **Shawneequa Callier, JD, MA**

“African-American bodies have always been on display,” my good friend Crystal told me. She and I were perusing a collection of poignant and tragic historical photographs at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. From bare-breasted women valued for their fertility to voluptuous African-American pop stars.

From stalwart farm workers to collegiate and professional athletes—people of the African Diaspora have been and continue to be exploited for what they can contribute physically—sometimes at enormous cost.

As Harriet Washington explains in her book “Medical Apartheid,” for blacks, some chapters within the annals of medical research tell a shocking and dreadful tale. For example, during the 18th and 19th centuries, Black graves were robbed and unidentified bodies were subject to unauthorized autopsies and dissections, sold to medical schools, and showcased in museums and traveling shows. From 1932 to 1972, Black men with syphilis were studied but not treated in the infamous Tuskegee experiments. And from 1845-1849, three Black women from Alabama underwent gynecological surgeries—one more than thirty times without the administration of general anesthesia—because they were the property of their slave master. James Marion Sims is now regarded as the father of American gynecology, but few who honor him know of the unspeakable horrors and sacrifices of Anarcha, Betsy, and Lucy, the women he tortured.

The past is gruesome and these stories must be remembered and re-told. Less obvious, but just as important, however, is the need for us to continue to participate in medical research. The challenge is: how can we, as a historically vulnerable and exploited population, honor the sacrifices of our ancestors and move forward in a way that inspires and heals?

In 2010, Rebecca Skloot published “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” which became a top seller and was rated by over 60 critics as one of the best books of the year. Skloot’s work is remarkable for many reasons, not least of all because she tells the story of the African-American woman and family behind the famous “HeLa cells,” cells which contributed to significant medical discoveries in the 20th Century, including the development of new cancer treatment protocols and the polio vaccine. Scientists and journalists utilized and marveled at Henrietta Lacks’ cancer cells with little regard for who she was as a person or how the publication of her name in journals and articles might devastate the Lacks family. But Skloot has detailed the Lacks families' narrative and has encouraged discussion about the meaningful participation of African-Americans in research historically and today.

In 2012, what steps can we take to continue this

discussion and develop paradigms that permit us to participate in research on our own terms? One thing that we cannot do is allow history to prevent us from benefiting from research. As Biotechnology and research moves forward, it is relying on the collection of individuals’ genetic sequences and large interconnected databases of health data. As descendants of African slaves, our gene pool is rich and diverse. Therefore, scientists must understand our diversity in order to treat us effectively and safely in the coming and uncontrollable age of personalized genomic medicine (i.e., personalized medicine that is tailored to individuals based on their genetic makeup). What scientists discover about Africans and African-Americans in the field of genomics will benefit all races, as we are all descendants of Africa where genetic diversity is the greatest.

Some countries, such as India and Mexico, have initiated their own genomic research projects as a means to become sovereigns of the genetic research from and affecting their communities. Although no one nation or ethnicity comprises African-Americans, we also have a strong stake in participating in and directing research that will highlight our genetic similarities with all people and help us to understand our differences for medical purposes.

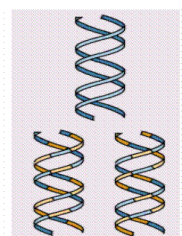
By being well-informed and strategic we can reap tremendous benefits from medical research while contributing to the ethical conduct of biomedical research in our communities. As part of this effort, we should seek out and support non-profit organizations and patient advocacy groups that promote superb informed consent mechanisms, that are interested in providing feedback to research participants about the research outcomes, and that are interested in *collaborating* with ethnic and racial communities. Another solution is to remain informed about and participate in the dialogue about physician and researchers’ perspectives on race and medicine. A group of social scientists and genetic researchers are particularly interested in the role genetic research and personalized genomic medicine can play in eliminating health disparities. We should read their work, talk about it, and assist with their research. Finally, we should know our rights as participants in research, and at the start of a potential study we should discuss our concerns with the investigators. We will not always have the power to control what happens to our biomedical materials, but we should voice our opinions whenever possible, and when it counts to do so. Nothing can erase the pain from years past, but as we help usher in a new era of research, we can create an enduring and positive legacy for our descendants.

About the Author: Ms. Callier is an attorney that has practiced health law for three years. She specializes in analyzing the ethical, legal, and policy issues raised by biomedical research. She is presently engaged as an Assistant Professor at George Washington University where she teaches health law and bioethics; and writes articles related to biotechnology. Her research focuses on topics germane to personalized genomic medicine, privacy standards in medical care and research, and the use of personalized genomic testing as an educational tool.

Dispersive replication

Original DNA double helix

DNA molecules after one round of replication



CELEBRATING AACEAINC'S 15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

GENESIS

The African-American/Caribbean Education Association, also known as AACEAINC, was founded in 1997 by Rosalind O'Neal, who brought together teachers of African-American and Caribbean heritage to address, and bring resolve to, educational issues impacting teachers, students, and parents in the Southeast Queens Community. In 2001, this group known as the African-American/Caribbean Education Association, whose cause is educational excellence became chartered by the New York State Education Department and incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. We are a 501 (c) 3 organization. Although AACEAINC's operations are based in Southeast Queens, its support extends to the five boroughs and beyond in its services to parents, students, families, and stakeholders.

MISSION

The mission of the African-American/ Caribbean Education Association is to provide a vehicle by which educators, parents, politicians, community, and the media may be informed about issues relevant to our children's educational growth and development, thereby, fostering a teaching and learning environment conducive to our students meeting the standards to compete and achieve in today's evolving technological society.

We are Education, Politics, and Culture in Action!
"Working to better the education of our children"

THE AACEAINC BOARD

1997-2012

In recognition of AACEAINC's BOARD, the organization wishes to acknowledge the dedicated individuals who have freely given of their time and energy over the years. In appreciation of their service, appearing in alphabetical order are the names of the AACEAINC BOARD, Past and Present.

*With great pride we salute
the contributions and commitment of this Board 1997-2012.*

- Anne E. Bernard 2003-2006
- Juliette Bowers 1997-2002
- Shawneequa Callier, Esq. 2006-Present
- Vera Caines 2009-2009
- Ingrid Calvert 2002-2003
- Mildred Collins 2006-Present
- Valerie Crawford 1997-1999
- Larry Cross 2006-2007
- Renee Dailey 1997-1999
- Rosa Hamlet 1998-2001
- Hope Hunter 1997-2001
- Carolyn Lipscomb 1997-1999 (Deceased)
- Karen N. Moore 2002-2006
- Rosalind O'Neal 1997-Present
- Yaa N. Opore 2001-2003
- Shirley Phipps 2006-Present
- Joyce Samber 2002-2008
- Fannie Smiths 1999-2003
- Sharane Stewart 2009-2010
- Theophlise Twitty 2006-2007
- Patricia Troche 2011-Present
- Hon. Ernestine Washington 2006-Present
- Lillie Whitmore 1997-2006
- Hyacinth Williams 1997-2001

A-A-C-E-A-I-N-C

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since our inception, we are proud to have spearheaded the following services to the community:

- AACEAINC SCHOLARSHIP FUND / Scholarship Program
- The AACEAINC Lifetime Achievement Award
- AACEAINC City-Wide Poetry Contest
- Education, Health & Culture Forums
- Co-sponsor College Fair: "A Showcase of CUNY Colleges"
- Co-sponsor Education Forum: "Working to Build a Better Future for Our Children"
- Co-sponsor College Seminar and Keeping Our Children Safe Safety Forum
- Information on the New Regents Standards
- Voter Registration
- Community Health Fair
- School Safety Community Forum
- Juneteenth Celebration and Essay Contest
- Community Civic Service Program
- Jazz/Poetry Slam
- A voice in Immigrant Education and Literacy Needs
- Black Literature Series with a Historical Genre
- Parent Empowerment Workshop Series
- Making Education a Top Priority Series
- Newsletter
- Adopt a School Program
- Cultural Sponsorship Program for Students
- Providing support as a community based organization in the application of the U.S. Department of Education Smaller Learning Communities Grant, which was successfully awarded to the Southeast Queens Community in 2002.
- Endorser of the National Center for Schools & Communities at Fordham University's Task Force 2009: Working for Human Rights in NYC Public Schools



THE COMMUNITY SPEAKS

The Community Speaks feature offers the community an opportunity to better understand issues and concerns. Our readership receives the opportunity to hear from community leaders, organizations and government representatives to learn about issues requiring our immediate attention. We welcome the community to take part in the dialogue. The following Elected Officials have shared their perspectives on their "Top Educational Priority for 2012" providing us with their vision in service to the community: Congressman Gregory Meeks, State Senate Minority Leader John L. Sampson, State Senator Shirley L. Huntley, State Senator Malcolm A. Smith (appearing in Community Resources), Assemblyman N. Nick Perry, Assemblyman William Scarborough, City Councilman Leroy Comrie, and City Councilman James Sanders, Jr.

Elected Officials Speak On Top Educational Priority 2012



**Congressman
Gregory Meeks
U.S. 6th CD**

This year the most important education bill that will be considered is the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 otherwise known as No Child Left behind (NCLB). Currently, states that were in jeopardy of failing to meet the goals set forth in NCLB are seeking waivers for the department of Education until Congress can agree to a reauthorization bill. While I was hopeful for a reauthorization under regular order, however, in my work with the Congressional Black Caucus Education Task force it is increasingly

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**State Senate
Minority Leader
John L. Sampson
NYS 19th S.D.**

A lot will happen in education this year and for me there are a number of top priority items. I will only list a few here. This year I will focus on working with my colleagues in the State Senate to improve the Teacher Evaluation Process to make it more effective. I believe that that must be linked to student performance as the barest minimum. Next, I will push for maintenance of the Contracts for Excellence Program. That is in recognition of both the fiscal circumstances facing the State and the continued need to encourage

Continues on P. 6



**Assemblyman
Deputy
Majority Leader
N. Nick Perry
NYS 58th AD**

Assemblyman N. Nick Perry continues to write and pass legislation which gives our schoolchildren the helping hand they need. In 2011 Assemblyman Perry passed his Cyber Crime Youth Rescue Act-The bill authored by Assemblyman Perry offers a second chance to teens that make the poor decision of sending explicit content electronically, the practice is commonly known as "sexting." Under the Cyber Crime Youth Rescue Act a first time youthful offender who did not have the intent

Continues on P. 6

**State Senator
Shirley L. Huntley
NYS 10th SD**



A quality education is one of the most vital components to our children achieving and sustaining success in their lives. It remains the responsibility of parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and our community to ensure the education of our students is never short changed or taken for granted. My top educational priority for 2012 is to mitigate the closure of schools, specifically in minority communities. The recent news from City Hall that 32 schools will close in New York City is a disservice to our children and hurting the future of our great city.

Continues on P. 6



**Assemblyman
William
Scarborough
NYS 29th AD**

The 2012 legislative session promises to be an important one in terms of education issues. One priority will be to begin to restore funding cut during the last couple of years and redeem the state commitments to education made after the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit. This year the Governor has promised a 4% increase in education funding, but much more needs to be done in this and future years.

The issue of teacher evaluations must be resolved. There must be an accurate and fair way to evaluate the performance of our teachers and test

Continues on P. 6



**Councilman
Deputy Majority
Leader
Leroy Comrie
NYC 27th CD**

My educational focus for this coming year will concentrate on three areas. One is to convince the Department of Education to commit to finding permanent space to house schools that are presently expanding beyond the shared space they are in now. This is causing new schools problems as they try to provide the necessary enhancements that were determined when they conceptualized their plans. We have five schools in south east Queens that are facing this dilemma.

Another is to address the issue

Continues on P. 8



**Councilman
James Sanders, Jr.
NYC 31st CD**

"I have been a fierce advocate for public education and student safety for more than two decades. I truly believe that education is the silver bullet that underlines everything in our society; from gaps in social and economic standing, to the easing of racial and ethnic tensions that will build literal and figurative bridges to our future. In any school environment, safety must be the number one issue, which is why the complete removal of all PCB's, or polychlorinated biphenyls, from the lighting fixtures of the schools in my district is a leading priority for me. When these fixtures were installed decades ago, little care or attention was shown to the dangers of this potentially deadly toxin. New federal studies suggest it may be leaking from these fixtures and hundreds of times the safe rate. Schools are supposed to be a safe haven for our children, a place where they can learn and explore the world, without threatening their health or safety. Common sense should tell us not to send our children into a building with a federally banned substance leaking from the ceiling at hundreds of times the acceptable rate. I intend to take up this fight and see to it that the schools in my district are the safest in the City.

The other scourge I intend to fight this year is the ongoing closure of public and charter schools throughout New York City. Closing schools that are deemed to be 'failing' only shuffles students around while breaking up friends and even family members, and contributing nothing to the advancement of education in New York. Too often schools are closed that never had a chance to get off the ground, and the alleged 'higher standards' for many charter schools have been used as a convenient excuse to simply shut a school down. Our students can't achieve when they're constantly changing schools, teachers and classmates. There is a deeper problem at the route of all these so called 'school failures', and it requires

more time, more attention and better, more reasoned standards."

Congressman Meeks cont'd from P. 5 looking like Republicans in charge of the bill are more focused on dropping college and career standards that will help prepare our children and grow our economy. As 2012 progresses I will be sure to advocate for legislation that ensures the safety, well being, and the fruitful learning environments our children deserve.

Sen. Huntley cont'd from P. 5 Closing schools with unilateral decisions is not an effective way to get our children learning and improving academically. Long term and short term investments in our schools are needed to address long standing issues such as disparities of funding of schools in minority communities, improving building infrastructure, reducing class sizes, and the occurrence of bullying and violence.

Bridging the gap of communication between school administration and parents, who sometimes feel they have no say in their child's education and at their local school are of critical importance. Closing schools and giving up on our students is not an acceptable response to challenges that we may face in the education system. Rather, evaluating and receiving input from parents, students, faculty, and anyone else who has a vested interest in the success of our children should be heard and considered.

Senator Huntley is a former Chair of NYC Community School Board 28 and former President of NYC Community Education Council 28. She currently is a member of the Senate Education Committee.

Sen. Sampson Cont'd on P. 5 improvements in academic outcomes. All school districts currently in the Contracts for Excellence program would remain in the program unless all of the school buildings in the school district are reported as "In Good Standing" for purposes of the State accountability system. I will also support State's commitment to State Assessments and GED testing.

Assemblyman Scarborough cont'd from P. 5 scores undoubtedly must be a part of that mix. How much they should count and be used must be decided quickly and cooperatively in a way that benefits our students primarily and does not become a vehicle to scapegoat one side or the other in these discussions.

Charter schools are an established component of the educational equation in New York, and high performing charters should be supported and can be a vehicle to push traditional public schools to improve and adopt some of the more innovative charter school techniques. By the same token, charters will never be able to educate the vast majority of our students, and the focus must continue on providing a quality education in all of our schools by providing resources, proven techniques and unwavering dedication to this goal by all parties involved.

Assemblyman Perry cont'd from P. 5 to commit a criminal offense, and was not aware that his/her actions constituted a crime, could be diverted to an education program and given a chance to have the charge dismissed upon successful completion of the program rather than be criminally prosecuted.

During the 2012 Legislative Session, Assemblyman Perry will continue his advocacy on behalf of our community's children and make the safety and welfare of schoolchildren one of his legislative priorities. Assemblyman Perry hopes to have both his "Chance to Help Notification Act," and "Clarente's Law" signed into law by the governor. His "Chance to Help Notification Act" requires notification of parent/guardian when their child is arrested. Parents will not be left out of the loop when it comes to their children's interaction with law enforcement. By ensuring that the responsible adult is notified of any unlawful activity by the minor in their care, we help to ensure that they have the chance to help before the youth commits additional offenses, more serious in nature.

"Clarente's Law," named in honor of 6-year-old constituent Clarente Turner who was killed in 2008 by a reckless driver while

Continues on P. 8



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

AACEA INC applauds and recognizes the fine work of the following entities that provide invaluable services to the community. The community resources listed herein have been a nurturing source for help and encouragement; and have earned fine reputations for their service. The following community resources are being showcased: BETSA, the Birthday Project, Fathers' Rights, Honor House, the Maria Rose International Doll Museum and Cultural Center, Outreach Church of God in Christ, the Senator Malcolm A. Smith Education Advisory Committee, St. Matthew's Community AME Church of Hollis, Teens Against Crime, Track Star Tutoring, and the Washington Center for Natural Therapies. The feature extends to pages 7, 10, 12 and 14; we provide the following community resources as a public service and receive no compensation.



**Senator
Malcolm A. Smith
NYS 14th S.D.**

In its advisory capacity, the EAC meets with Senator Smith to discuss educational issues, strategic planning, and campaigns that will empower the community. Since its inception, it has served as liaison to many individual parents who have had issues with their children's schools regarding unfair placement, ineffective counseling and questionable treatment of children with special needs.

The EAC has worked independently and in collaboration with parent groups, churches, and CBOs bringing the community various forums and seminars. Through its intervention, it brought the New York Historical
Continues on P. 10

BETSA-Better Education Through School Assistance

The BETSA foundation has been in existence since 2004. Our mission is to foster and promote academic growth and development in the public schools of south-east queens. We work with principals, teachers and parents and the community to help our children. We do this by providing supplies or services or sometimes just time or energy. We work with students on all levels. Some of the things we have been involved in with elementary school children, over the years is to: provide school uniforms, help children get at least one pair of eye glasses, have students compete in a Black History Writing contest, and support PTA projects. On the higher levels, students are encouraged to volunteer and assistance is given to make transitions from middle school to
Continues on P. 10

The Senator Malcolm A. Smith Education Advisory Committee

The Senator Malcolm A Smith Education Advisory Committee has been in existence for over ten years. The mission of the Education Advisory Committee is to educate, energize, and empower the community to become active participants in the learning process, by enlightening, educating, and nurturing our children, through strategic planning, advocacy, and public awareness. It has proven itself to be one of the most valued resources of the 14th Senatorial District, and beyond. This committee serves as the link joining State government with local educational facilities.

The Birthday Project

The Birthday Project provides children residing in our city's homeless family residences with school supplies and birthday gifts. Prior to the start of the school term, we distribute backpacks with ample school supplies for the year, with a personal note of encouragement for academic success. Throughout the year, we prepare birthday gift bags for the same population. Besides toys and games, the bags always include books, dictionaries, and workbooks to improve grammar, spelling, math and reading comprehension. We feel that the stigma attached to being undomiciled is more than enough for children to cope with,
Continues on P. 10

Fathers' Rights

Fathers' Rights Inc. was founded by Sandria VonAckbersingh-Twitty to better assist "responsible" fathers seeking legal redress from the New York State Court System. Fathers' Rights, an experienced group the community may call upon, is working to change legislation in the current child support/custody laws. The group surfaced to ensure that fathers receive equal protection and due process under the law; and to prevent harsh penalties and arbitrary fines that may be imposed upon fathers. If you need help, want to get involved or wish to learn more about Fathers' Rights Inc., please contact: Sandria at:
sandriavt1@aol.com

Honor House

Honor House is a community based, and 10 bed residential facility for formerly displaced Veterans. We provide 3 hot meals per day, 2 indoor recreation/lounge areas equipped with cable TV and computer/internet services, a comfortable living room and dining area, and a canopied outdoor area to barbecue, relax and commune with nature. We accommodate two men per room with individualized beds, dressers and night tables. We offer supportive services inclusive of military upgrades, certificates of eligibility, Hud-Vash, food stamps, Access a Ride, and reduced fare cards. Honor House is
Continues on P. 10

Outreach Church of God in Christ

Outreach Food and Soup Kitchen was founded by Sister Wanda Richardson under the leadership of Dr. Lacey and continues to flourish with the help of Sister Xiomara Amedegnato. Help is provided to the Lawrence community and surrounding communities with food and clothing services. Families are given a hot meal, as well as, spiritual comfort. Outreach looks to expand to provide a larger food supply and gives thanks to God for allowing them to serve.
CONTACT:
Elder, Dr. Richard L. Lacey, Pastor,
226 Lawrence Avenue, Lawrence, NY
11559, (516) 476-3845

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Continues on P. 10

Assemblyman Perry cont'd from P. 6
crossing street, walking home from school, holding hands with his mother, would create traffic safety zones around all schools in New York City. Under the legislation, penalties for traffic violations in these designated school safety zones would be doubled for certain moving violations. These increased fines would serve as a deterrent to potential reckless drivers and decrease the chance of the motor vehicle tragedies that too often befall the citizens of our communities.

Councilman Comrie cont'd from P. 5
of our children being ready to take specialized exams for advanced placement. This can be done by working with providers to teach our children how to prepare to take these tests so that they can confidently approach any exam and do well.

Finally, the issue of parent participation in their child's education. Many parents in our community are first generation so they are unaware of their responsibility to advocate for resources' that can benefit their children. We will be encouraging groups that are involved in education outreach to work together on a monthly basis to provide information workshops that people can attend.

ATTENTION:

**GRADUATING
High School Seniors**

Visit our website to learn
about
AAACEAINC SCHOLARSHIPS
and
Download Application
Awards: \$1000-\$2500

www.aaceainc.com

**Deadline to Apply:
Tuesday, May 1, 2012**

POETRY

“My flaws are the Best part of me”

**By Jahnya Barnett,
Far Rockaway, NY 11691**

Winner of AAACEAINC City-Wide Poetry Contest High School Division '11

“My flaws are the Best part of me”

I hide behind my hair
My skin and nails don't care.
The imperfections of my split ends, my nails that break now and then.
My body has traffic signals,
SLOW down when a curve is up ahead.
Confident within myself when I lay down in my bed.
My flaws are the best part of me.
That part I think you won't agree, but the one who really loves me,
can see deep down in me. When he sees my outward like basketball
he calls interference,
When he sees my inward it makes a real appearance, because my
flaws are the best part of me.
Mixed colors on my skin, birthmark on my back-that's how it's been.
No bleaching kits for me, no weave for a crown. I'm happy in my skin,
my nakedness is my gown.
Royal is the ground I walk on- my feet walked the Egyptian sands,
I gathered seeds from Lebanon and beautiful is my hand.
My chinky eyes viewed the Himalayas and my memory stored its
vastness, and so I believed my hips were born of the mountains-I'm
proud of my curves. My thick lips and my breasts are the cradling for
the Black man and my wisdom and even my belligerence helps him
past life's tests
My flaws are simply the best.

VOTE

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GOOD READING AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

By Hon. Ernestine Washington,
Acting Education Chair

Health Awareness Self-Help Books

1. American Diabetes Association, *What to Expect when you Have Diabetes*.
2. American Dietetic Association, *American Dietetic Association Guide to Healthy Eating for Kids*. John Wiley & Sons.
3. Becker, Gretchen, *Stop Diabetes; 50 Simple Steps*, Marlowe and Company
4. Bonner, DeDe, PhD, The 10 Best Questions for Living with Alzheimer's, Simon Burnett, Albert M.D., *What to do for Senior Health*, Institute for Healthcare Advancement
5. Gavin, James, R. MD, PhD, *Dr. Gavin's Health Guide for African Americans*
6. Haessler, Herbert, M.D., *Medical Tests You can Do Yourself*, Contemporary Books
7. Huggins, Sheryl ad McKissack, Cheryl., *The NLA Guide for Black Women Choosing Health and Wellness*, NIA.
8. Huffman, David, *Healthy Bones and Joints*, David Hoffman.
9. Kuhn, Daniel, MSW, *Alzheimer's Early Stages*, Hunter House Inc.
10. O'Driscoll, Erin, RN, *Exercises for Diabetes*, Hatherleigh Press.
11. Parker, Katrina, MD, *Teen's Guide Living with Diabetes*, Facts on File
12. Salmon, Margaret, *Food Facts for Teenagers*, Charles C. Thomas, publisher.
13. Skloot, Rebecca, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Broadway Paperbacks.
14. Weatherby, Craig & Leonard Gordon, MD, *Arthritis Bible*, Healing Arts Press
15. Wulsin, Lawson, MD, *Treating the Aching Heart*, Vanderbilt Press

ACEAINC OPPORTUNITIES

Civic and Community Service Program—middle and high school students may earn community service credit.

Internship Opportunity for Administrative Assistant—ideal for students seeking fieldwork semester hours with interest in education or business office procedures. This is a voluntary, non-salaried position.

Scholarship Announcement—for details and how to apply, visit our website.
Deadline: Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Scholarship Committee—community participation is welcome to sit on Scholarship committee. You must apply.

Speakers—professional speakers are available to speak on educational topics at your community event.

****Parties interested in the above may get information and download necessary forms/applications at: www.aceainc.com**

The EAC cont'd from P. 7

Society's "Slavery in New York Exhibition" to the Queens Central Library; and participated in Senator Smith's unprecedented live on-line meeting with the Department heads of the NYCDOE challenging school closings, policies affecting our children, and school performance. This program allowed parents and students the opportunity to ask questions in the media on live television and expeditiously receive satisfaction.

Members of the committee have extensive backgrounds in education and expertise in navigating the educational school system, which greatly enhances the Senator's ability to be effective in his relevant legislative and constituent activities. Senator Smith is warmly recognized for making this committee possible enabling his constituents a better voice! The EAC consists of the following members: Kenneth Cohen, Jeany Persaud, Sharon Sweeting-Lindsey, John Tillman, Judith Tyler, and Rosalind O'Neal, committee chairperson. The EAC has been awarded the Kujichagulia, Self-Determination Award and the District 27 Presidents Award.

The Committee Comments on its Work

Kenneth Cohen: The Education Advisory Committee has been a diamond in the community, providing quality information and assistance to parents as well as hands on enrichment to students, in their quest for an excellent education. The workshops and college Open Houses we have offered allowed access to various Colleges and Universities where that access might have been limited. The commitment to educational institutions, and assisting in the maintaining of those institutions helps stakeholders remain constant in educating students.

Jeany Persaud:

We are a life line for the community to have direct contact with the Senator. A lot of parents are not aware that this committee makes him accessible to their needs—and that is what we are—a means to connect.

Sharon Sweeting-Lindsey:

The work that I have been able to accomplish is to support parents in their quest for quality education of their children. On numerous occasions, I have had the opportunity to accompany parents to parent/school conferences

and advocate for the rights of their children. As a result of the Senator's EAC, I am recommitted to being a member of the committee and continuing my advocacy efforts. The personalized touch the committee provides in its advocacy for upholding educational rights of Southeast Queens students, reinforces my personal commitment to the education of our at-risk students.

Judith Tyler:

As we move forward in our efforts to improve the educational system in New York City, we have to be mindful that it takes the efforts of all school stakeholders, parents, teachers, administrators and the community to be successful. Our focus must be steadfast to create the educational environment in which individual students are motivated to achieve, and exposed to a strong academic experience that perpetuates academic success.

Rosalind O'Neal, Chair:

We live in an age of high tech everything! Sadly, I share the view of many that our neighborhood schools fall short of anticipated expectations in this modern era and the educational excellence worthy of this Southeast Queens and Far Rockaway community. For this reason, I persevere as a viable member and chair of the EAC, working toward educational parity. I am proud to be a part of a remarkable force of 6 that has brought quality programs, forums, collaborations, resources, and opportunities for economic and educational growth, and development. Serving at the behest of Senator Malcolm A. Smith, for almost a decade, we have been outstanding in strategic planning and successful outcomes that have greatly benefited the community and communities like ours. I am proud to chair this diligent group of exceptional individuals whose mission, passion, and motto is to: Energize, Educate, and Empower. CONTACT: District Office, 205-20 Jamaica Avenue, Hollis, NY 11423, 718-454-0162 (t), 718-454-0186 (f) To contact the Education Advisory Committee directly: Rosalind O'Neal at: 718/949-6733, Telephone and Fax, E-mail address: educationadvisorycommittee@yahoo.com

BETSA cont'd from P. 7

high school and high school to college.

BETSA provides comprehensive instructional supports and scholarships. This year BETSA honored the following students: Lasaha Oyo, Sophomore, Buffalo State, NY; Quinn Gallmon, Sophomore, Bennett College, SC; Anaya Richardson, Freshman, Clark College, GA; DeVonne Brown, Sophomore, Edward Waters College FL (accepted, Morehouse'12); Sean Chavis, Sophomore, Edward Waters College, FL; Jeff Oyo, Sophomore, Buffalo State NY; John Boyce, Freshman, Lincoln University, PA; and Dominick Holt, Sophomore, Texas College, TX. CONTACT: Tel. 917-496-25-75-or E-mail: shanequa234@aol.com-Dr. NOVILLE Jeanne Hammock, President Dr. Virginia Noville, Vice President

Birthdays Project cont'd from P. 7

so we place a great emphasis on personalization to let each child know and feel that he or she is special. We hold Literacy Events where we supply children with books on or above their reading levels, and they are rewarded for the number of books read and reports written during a specified time period. We're honored that Columbia University students often collaborate and assist us with these special efforts. We have similar programs for Math as well as Science. We make donations of clothing and personal items for the families on a regular basis, as well as the same for children in impoverished. CONTACT: Website: www.thebirthdayproject.org E-mail: admin@thebirthdayproject.org Tel. 718-525-2935

Honor House cont'd from P. 7

designed to transition men from military life back into civilian life with a sense of comfort and tranquility. Our fees are income based and we do accept donations: monetary, clothing and household item donations. It is operated by VETS, Inc., a 501 (c)3 organization that is committed to quality service for the military community. Honor House is a tribute to men who have served with HONOR CONTACT: Sharon Sweeting-Lindsey, Retired Major US Army, Executive Director and Co-Founder at: 111-16 173rd Street, Jamaica, NY, 11433 1-718 206 2376(T) 1-718 2062391(F) vets@rocketmail.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Continues on P. 12

PARENTS CORNER

Parent Involvement in the School

What is Parent Involvement?

- It is communicating with your child's Teachers
- It is attending PTA meetings and Parent Teacher Conferences.
- It is volunteering in school for anything, at any time.
- It is supporting your child at performances, athletic events and award ceremonies.
- It is being involved.
- It is the difference between a school that succeeds and a school that fails.
- It is an obligation, not an option.

These are *OUR* Children. As Parents it is *OUR* duty to ensure *OUR* children succeed.

Tandrea Lane, IS 59Q PTA President
D29 Presidents Council Recording Secretary
E-mail: IS59PTA@GMAIL.COM

Being a Parent Leader

One good thing about being involved in your child's school is getting first hand information regarding improvements, learning what we can contribute as parents, and understanding the workings of PA/PTA responsibilities.

- There are many challenges as PTA President and it is important to have a good group of teachers, supportive administrative staff, and a good Executive Board
- I learned a lot from the principal and was involved in decision making processes
- A member of the District President's Council, members have to become familiar with By-laws and Chancellor's Regulations
- I gained experience conducting elections in various schools
- I learned how to do Public Speaking and deal with different personalities
- I was fortunate to meet other parent leaders who were inspiring, and supportive of good leadership
- Volunteering in schools: It gave me a feeling of belonging and allowed me to utilize my skills to help others

Wendy Pratt
PTA President District 27
District 27 Presidents Council

INFORMATION FROM THE CULTURE CHAIR

Karen Nabila Moore

I want to help create a new cultural tradition by creating your Family Educational Cultural Experience Person

For a long time, we as families in the education system have waited for a crisis to respond in any way that would manage a successful outcome. We do not, however, have difficulty with our ability to culturally link together for spiritual and family gatherings--church, family reunions, etc. There is something to learn from this as we organize for better educational outcomes. Even when we cannot attend a meeting, we can have someone there to represent our interests.

"Who am I?" you ask? I am your family's educational cultural experience. I want to be a committee in your church. I want to be a part of the family group that gets together each month to plan the reunion, that is, create a family representative who will represent you at school meetings. I want to be as natural as your "chicken on Sunday and your macaroni and cheese at every gathering."

As Culture Chair, I will personally visit your community meetings and help you organize school endeavors and district issues. I will be a part of the group that represents you and your family on school committees and at district meetings. You will be given minutes of the meetings' highlights along with copies of the agendas. You will have the chance to respond with the various school leaders with any personal questions you may have.

The "Family's Educational Cultural Experience Person" will be able to help you have direct access to your individual school by linking you with the Parent Coordinator or District Family Networker. By sending this representative to your school meetings you will be assured of getting the information needed to stay abreast of your child's grades and school. You will know where your tax dollars are going in your community.

Many of the parents who do not come to public school meetings don't come due to the time periods and the child care and family care needs that have come to pervade the current lifestyles of families today. Perhaps if we work together we can take care of this vital function in our communities. Parents do not have to feel out of touch or guilty because they could not make a meeting. Family representatives can carry the concerns that are talked about but never brought to the forefront. You can still make a difference.

I will come to your church or meeting and show you how to set-up a Family Representative, a "Family Educational Cultural Experience Person." It is quite easy and very simple. Join me in a new cultural tradition. Let's call it, "Trickle Down Home Educational Issue Tea Parties." We will have a great time learning. karenmoore1952@hotmail.com



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

St. Matthew's Community AME Church of Hollis

Our purpose is to provide for the general well being of children and their families by offering services and programs carefully designed to improve their emotional, educational and physical condition. In response to the need for homework assistance, the church offers an afterschool program in collaboration with Arts & Education Continuum with a focus on multi-disciplinary educational services for students at all levels. Students receive individual attention and academic coaching. Mr. Darrell Bridges, the executive director of A & EC also works with St. Matthew's to provide a full day six week Summer Enrichment Program. St. Matthew's partners with BASICS, International, which allows students from IS 192 and SMC to raise funds for the implementation of programs in Ghana. St. Matthew's Community A.M.E. Church (SMC) is a congregation that seeks to strengthen local and global families and communities by proclaiming in thought, word and deed the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ. CONTACT: St. Matthew's Community AME Church of Hollis, Rev. Andrea Hargett, Sr. Pastor, 718 464-6102(T), 718 464-0226(F) smcamechurch.org Mr. Darrell Bridges, Arts & Education Continuum, 646-330-3883 DarrellDBE@aol.com

Teens Against Crime

Florence Simmons founded Teens Against Crime Inc. in 1993 to reduce the prevalence of violent acts and destructive behaviors in youth and families. Teens Against Crime is an anti-crime program that empowers economically and socially disadvantaged youth through education, social self awareness, mentoring, and cultural enrichment programs. She has been successful in accomplishing this mission by teaching youth and families to utilize necessary skills that help build character, strong value systems, and communication skills. The program helps youth to realize their growth and development and interpersonal relationships.

Teens Against Crime works in collaboration with; Education & Enlightenment (Health Awareness), Tex Zone Computers (Computer Training/Repairs), SiFi (Social Media), Supreme Security Academy (Electrical Training), Terry Lewis Music /Education Enhancer), Sade Smith (Cartoon & Animation), Gladys Smith (Web design & TV Production), and Sandile (Photo-Photography). This is the emergency response team that supports the efforts of Teens Against Crime. We are in Jamaica Queens and Harlem making a difference with our youth and families.

October 2011, Florence Simmons was chosen Queens Courier Star of Queens for dedicating her time and assisting the youth and their families with the challenges of life . CONTACT: 347-449-4991, 646-422-7679, Facebook, Twitter, Teensagainstcrime.org, fteacher@teensaganistcrime.org

Track Star Tutoring

A Queens native born tutoring company, Track Star Tutoring helps students stay on track with education. Track Star Tutoring consists of a group of experienced educators dedicated to helping students build the confidence to achieve their highest academic potential. We administer diagnostic assessments of students regularly and concentrate on building skill gaps. Afterward, we tailor an educational plan and curriculum that focuses on building weaknesses.

Track Star prescribes to the philosophy of diversity; therefore we identify each child's natural strengths through testing and non-academic drivers (i.e. stamina, focus, and motivation) to provide a clear and concise evaluation of their abilities. We understand that each child is unique and should be afforded differentiated instruction.

Learning's Fun at Track Star Tutoring!

Students experience learning through academic games, technology, and through creative curriculums. Track Star coaches are enthusiastic about working with students and encourage a fun learning environment that makes it easier and more comfortable for students to achieve.

Parents can benefit from our flexible scheduling options. We work with students in our tutoring location, or we'll tutor in students' homes. We provide parents with student progress reports and culture successful

partnerships between our directors, parents, teachers/administrators to ensure that each student experiences academic success. Together we are changing the world one mind at a time! Visit: www.TrackStarTutoring.com or call (347) 592- STAR (7827) for info.

The Maria Rose International Doll Museum and Cultural Center

The museum was established in 2007, housed in St. Albans, New York. It consists of more than 500 dolls acquired by Naida Njoku, R.N., M. Ed., the Museum's Founder and Director. These Dolls reflect world travel and were collected over a forty year period.

A journey around the world is taken when you begin your first steps into the Museum. We start with the Continent of Africa, and proceed to North and South America, the Antarctic, the Continent of Asia and Europe, and stop at the quaint Dickens Village in England, and travel the English country side.

The objective of the Museum is to have children develop an appreciation for culture, to learn tolerance and respect for others, and to showcase the artistry of the sculpturing.

The Museum has Open Houses and Programs, such as, Black History, Watch Night, Women's History Month, Unspoken Word, Financial Literacy, Quilting, Sewing Classes, and Reading Enrichment for Ages 6-9 years old on Saturday 12:30p.m.-1:30p.m.

The Museum has had visitors from all walks of life, in the community, outside of the community, children, young ones, teenagers, teachers and their classes, the mentally challenged, the blind (the dolls are placed in their arms), senior center groups, and those doing community service.

Contact: Naida Njoku, Director 187-11 Linden Blvd, St. Albans, NY 11412, 718-276-3454

Exhibit Days: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Hours: 12:30p.m.-4:30p.m.

AACEAINC provides this information as a public service to the community; AACEAINC receives no compensation of any type to list any of the above resources in this feature.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Continues on P. 14

**Making Education a Top Priority
Let's Talk College**

We recommend that strong academic students take advanced placement courses as well as four year sequences in the five academic subject areas --English, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Science, and Math--to be considered for admission by competitive colleges and universities. Save all your report cards. Check with your guidance counselor after each semester to obtain your GPA and class ranking. Colleges usually review your transcript from grades 9-11 and may require more to be considered for admission.

THE AACEAINC SCHOLARSHIP

Our scholarships are representative of the fields of endeavor in which our name-holder honorees have achieved outstanding accomplishments. We inspire our young people to emulate their dedication, service, and commitment, in their quest to make a difference on life's road to the benefit of us all.

- Mildred Collins Nursing/Health Science/Medicine Scholarship
- William A. Samber, Sr. Aviation/Mathematics and Science Scholarship
- Hon. Ernestine Washington Library Science/English Language Arts Scholarship

Eligible graduating high school seniors should apply. **Deadline: Tuesday, May, 1, 2012**
For more information and to download an application please visit us at:
www.aaceainc.com

Path to Excellence

Our scholarship recipients are high academic achievers who have given a minimum of 200 community service hours, a mandated requirement for the AACEAINC scholarship. They are accomplishing great feats at their respective colleges and in pursuit of their aspiring careers. Because success is achieved by discipline and hard work, we asked these achievers to share with us their perspective on achieving excellence as an incentive to parents and students. Alexis Atkinson, Genesis Bonds, Lystona Fough, and Kerena Thomas have provided us with the following insightful thoughts to ponder. May they offer encouragement and inspiration in this competitive climate for success.

Scholarships 2011

2, \$2500; 1, \$2000, 1, \$1500

Genesis Bonds, Jamaica, NY

William A. Samber Sr Aviation/ Math and Science Scholarship, Duke University

Kerena Thomas, Ozone Park, NY

William A. Samber Sr Aviation/ Math and Science Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania

Nadya Antoine, Brooklyn, NY

Hon. Ernestine Washington Library Science/ English Language Arts Scholarship, City College of New York (CUNY)

Alexis Atkinson, Jamaica, NY

Hon. Ernestine Washington Library Science/ English Language Arts Scholarship, Colby College (Maine)

Scholarships 2010

2, \$2200, 1, \$1000

Carrie Lee Courts, Elmont, NY

Mildred Collins Nursing/ Health Science/ Medicine Scholarship, New York University

Tylah Victoria Johnson, Bronx, NY

Mildred Collins Nursing/ Health Science/ Medicine Scholarship,

George Washington University

Abby Gail Douett, Springfield Gardens, NY

AACEAINC Student Volunteer Service Scholarship, Premier Recipient 2010,

Monroe College, New Rochelle Campus

Scholarships 2009

1, \$2000, 1, \$1800, 2, \$1600

Lystona Fough, Manhattan, NY

Mildred Collins Nursing/ Health Science/ Medicine Scholarship,

"Macaulay Honors College" of Hunter College, CUNY

Arielle Henley, Cambria Heights, NY

Honorable Ernestine Washington Library Science/English Language Arts Scholarship, New York University

Ben Antoine, Brooklyn, NY

William A. Samber S. Aviation/ Math and Science Scholarship, Carnegie Mellon University

Jordan Roberts, Washington, DC

William A. Samber S. Aviation/ Math and Science Scholarship, Williams College

Scholarships 2008

1, \$1800, 2, \$1500

Ketsia Gelin, Valley Stream, NY

Mildred Collins Nursing/Health Science/Medicine Scholarship, Queens College

Asha Gellineau, South Ozone Park, NY

Honorable Ernestine Washington Library Science/English Language Arts Scholarship, Queens College

Christopher Onuorah, Elmont, NY

William A. Samber Sr. Aviation/ Math and Science Scholarship, SUNY University at Albany

Alexis Atkinson '11: "All we can do is our absolute best! You will never be satisfied with anything in life unless you put your full effort and complete enthusiasm into it. If you find that you have not or cannot possibly place as much effort into something as you would like, then reflect on the ways you can change your situation. But if you in your heart know you tried your best in every way possible, regardless of the result, congratulate yourself for knowing you did all you could. Your best may not be the same as that of someone else but it is your best and you should be proud of yourself. Always find ways to reward yourself for your good deeds because it is so easy, in any endeavor, to lose sight of them when things take unexpected turns. Do your best and you will be on the path to excellence." [Hon. Ernestine Washington Library Science/ English Language Arts Scholarship]

Genesis Bonds '11: "Success, to me, stems from planning. As easy as it is to live by the idea of taking life as it comes, and use each situation as a lesson, through my own experiences, I have learned that being one step ahead and setting a clear path for myself has done nothing but help lead me to success in reaching my end goal. Success starts with a goal, a dream, a belief, or a desire to achieve more. Even when I feel that I've failed at something, my desire to achieve excellence gives me the drive to continue to keep trying." [William Samber Aviation/Math and Science Scholarship]

Path to Excellence Continues on P. 14

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Over the years, AACEAINC has witnessed the free services the Washington Center has provided as a public service; and we were impressed with a comprehensive seminar it presented, which was designed to offer vital and life threatening information on Prostate Cancer Awareness for both men and women. Because women must encourage its husbands, sons, brothers, nephews, and so on, to maximize their quality of life and prostate health, it is important to be empowered and to take advantage of such services. We take pride in introducing you to this community resource and trust the readership will learn about what the Washington Center for Natural Therapies has to offer the community, each individual personally, and one's family.

The Washington Center For Natural Therapies



**Rev., Dr. Florence E. Washington, Ph.D., N.D., C.N.C.,
Bio-Activist**

Founder of *The Washington Center for Natural Therapies*, of the *World Christian Ministries*, Pastoral Counselor: Pre-marital, Marital, and Family Blending.

Dr. Washington is a member of The International Association of Colon Therapists, an I-ACT Certified Irrigation Instructor, Certified by National Board of Colon Hydrotherapists, Stress Management Consultant, certified by the International Association of Counselors and Therapists, The International Institute of Reflexology, Certified by the International Institute of Iridology, and member of The American Naturopathic Medical Association. Certified by Meridian Medical, Inc as a D.P.A. and Heart Rate Variability Technician. Dr. Washington is an instructor and Presenter.

Services at *The Washington Center*, include: customized supplementation, colonic irrigation, stress management. Massage therapy, Acupressure, Detoxification Programs, Body Wraps, Spa Packages, Infra-Red Sauna, Healthy Meat, Fish/Poultry and Purified Water Programs. We are a Weight management Center focusing on body composition adjustment.

Monthly educational workshops are held at the Center, and by invitation to speak at an event, focusing on Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, Cardiovascular Health, as well as gender specific concerns such as Breast Health and Prostate/Testicular Health Awareness. Arrangements can be made to come to you

The Center is locally based in the Rosedale community, call for additional information: 718-276-5575.

www.thewashingtoncenter.com

[AACEAINC provides this information as a public service to the community; AACEAINC receives no compensation of any type to list any of the community resources listed in this feature.]

Path to Excellence Continues from P. 13

Lystona Fough '09: The greatest excellence possible comes from the combination of millions of microscopic excellences. So please strive to be excellent in even the tiniest things that seem to have no importance. Remember your manners, always dress in a way that befits your ideals, love and take care of your body, choose the apple instead of the doughnut, treat others how you would LOVE to be treated, put your resume on nice paper, treat those month long internships as if they were paying jobs that your life depended on...the list goes on. If you take a test and receive a perfect score, what good is it if you don't care to write your name on the top? In some cases, you can still get the credit, in other cases, the examiner will deduct points, or even throw out the test, and those are the cases that usually matter the most. Pay attention to the details in your life; you never know which detail will make or break you. [Mildred Collins Nursing/Health Science/Medicine Scholarship]

Kerena Thomas '11: "I believe that the key to success is simply trying one's best. You must not compare yourself to other people, nor let other people intimidate you. Once you try your best at everything you do, achievement will follow." [William Samber Sr. Aviation/Math and Science Scholarship]

President's Message cont'd from P. 2

Subsequent gatherings are being arranged and hosted by parent groups, churches, and civic organizations. Interested parties that would like for us to come to their facilities can contact us for scheduling. [Contact: P.15]

We look forward to working with you; and trust folks will be diligent in spreading the word about AACEAINC's Scholarship Program. The deadline to apply is May 1st. This year's Fifth Annual Scholarship and Lifetime Achievement Awards will not only celebrate "achievement and excellence" but our 15th Year Anniversary as well. We are planning a gala black and gold affair for that evening. AACEAINC will present lifetime achievement awards to members that have valiantly given many cherished moments of service to the organization; and present one of our board members enmeshed in the vanguard of the biotechnology debate, in the role of Keynote Speaker. Our young people and guests shall be greatly moved and inspired—we guarantee it! The event is being hosted at the Coral House of Baldwin, New York. Please save the date: Thursday, August 2, 2012.

Conclusively, we have managed to press on, get stronger, and yield successful outcomes. We credit this to our "capacity for innovation"—a Hallmark we wear with pride. We look forward to providing our community with many more years of service, leadership, and empowerment; and without reservation your gracious support!



**SAYING GOOD-BYE TO
WILLIAM SAMBER, SR.**



December 6, 1918 - November 23, 2011

**“Documented: Original Tuskegee Airman”
Congressional Gold Medal of Honor Recipient ‘07
Name-Holder Honoree of the AACEAINC
Aviation/ Math & Science Scholarship
Humanitarian, Educator, and AACEAINC Officer**

AACEAINC said good-bye to William Samber on December 5, 2011. He served as the organization’s education captain and was instrumental in inspiring young people to do great and extraordinary things. He emphasized the importance of service, leadership, and character; and continued to be a role model until his passing at the golden age of 92. His passing has taken all of us by surprise; and we will miss his warmth, energy, and enthusiasm, but most importantly, his genuine desire to share his heart and talents with his community.

On Wednesday, November 23, 2011, William Samber expired. The Wake was held on December 4th and the Home Going Service on December 5th at the Greater Allen A.M.E Cathedral of New York. Friends, family, and community came from far and wide to extend their heartfelt sympathy and to provide comfort and support to the family. He leaves to mourn his two children, Joyce L. Samber and Elder William Samber, Jr.; and a host of friends, relatives, and community, whose lives he touched with an indelible mark. His Interment is planned for the Arlington National Cemetery.

“Mr. Samber was a paragon of intelligence, integrity and compassion. He is an inspiration to me; he has inspired many before me, and will continue to inspire young men and women as long as we keep celebrating his life and accomplishments.” [Jordan Roberts, William Samber Aviation /Math and Science Scholarship ‘09.]



From left to right, preparing to present their scholarship: William Samber (Aviation/ Math & Science), Ernestine Washington (Library Science/ English Language Arts), Mildred Collins, (Nursing, Health Science/Medicine), and President Rosalind O’Neal, presiding.
Firsts Awards Ceremony: Crowne Plaza, August 2, 2008

ABOUT US

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We are a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization; Membership and Donations are tax deductible. Membership in the African-American/Caribbean Education Association (AACEAINC) is not limited to educators. We welcome people of courage who want to make a difference in the lives of OUR CHILDREN.

To apply for membership you may complete this form or download a complete application at our website. General Membership is \$25 annually. Ask us about other memberships. Donations can be made online at our website or: Send check or money order for donations /membership payable to:

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Education, Culture, Politics, Fundraising

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SAVE THE DATE

**“Celebrating Achievement and Excellence”
Fifth Annual Scholarship and Lifetime Achievement Awards
and
15th Anniversary Year**

**Thursday, August 2, 2012
Coral House, Baldwin, NY, 7:00-11:00 P.M.**

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*Harriet Diaz
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Shawneequa Callier, Esq.
Bioethics and Health Law Professor*

ENTERTAINMENT

DJ Tam Jams and BiLee T & Marcia