

Letter from the Editor

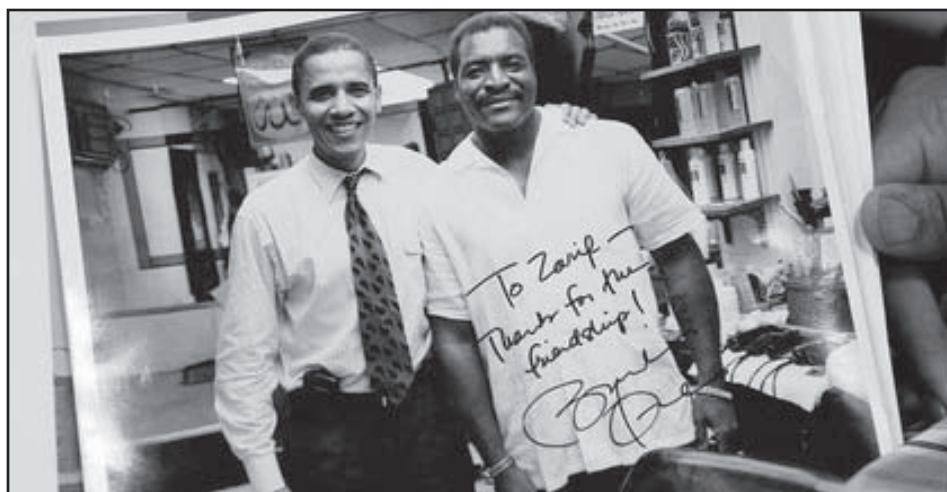


Shoshi Mabina

Afriקה joins the celebration of March as Women's History Month with Rosie the Riveter on the cover. Celebrating women's achievements and contributions increases our consciousness and raises our opinion of women. The strength of a woman is not tested when promotions, raises, higher stipend and respect are not offered. In addition, aggressive methods used to weaken the strength of women tell a person they are worthless. Aggressive methods that comprise of battery, vulgar name associations of the physique, introductions to dope, rape and character defamation.

We can do our part by giving back to women who deserve our recognition. How? Parents, adults, seniors, teenagers are all asked to take down posters, website graphics, ring tones, cell phone wallpapers, turn off television shows, music, movies and anything that endorses public figures who engage in aggressive methods against women. Through out this month's issue you will find acknowledgments of the successful impact women have among every aspect of our society, including *your* life.

THE OFFICIAL SHOP OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



Now patrons can get the Presidential look too, when visiting the historic Hyde Park Hair Salon landmark, with "The Obama Cut". President Barack Obama has been receiving premium quality haircuts there, nearly every week, for over 20 years. Since becoming President, co-owner and Master Barber Zariff continues to service the President.

President Obama signed the exact chair where he sat while receiving his haircuts is now on display in a donated R.S. Owens custom design case. Owens is responsible for creating the awards given to the stars at The Emmy Award Show, Country Music Award Show, NASCAR Nextel Cup Ceremony, The London International Advertising Award Gala, Britannia Award Show and the Oscars.

Established as a tourist destination as "The Official Shop of President Barack Obama" by the City of Chicago, the shop is the third oldest business in the heart of one of Chicago's most affluent, culturally rich and diverse south side neighborhoods. President Obama being the barbershops most prestigious client has brought on huge amounts of media frenzies making the shop an internationally known entity.

The shop has been servicing other prominent figures inside and outside the community since 1927. Legends including boxing champion Mohammed Ali, Mayor Harold Washington, Hall of Famer Lou Brock, movie director Spike Lee, Japanese entertainer/comedian Nozomu Sato, Chicago Bears players, White Sox owner Bill Veeck, Entertainment Attorney Walter M. Dale and Lakers/Celtics Basketball player Rick Fox. Known as the "lucky charm", all come to the location for the unique grooming techniques and exclusive house call services.

Tourists visiting Chicago and canvassing the Hyde Park neighborhood, can stop in the barbershop to receive an array of special a la cart grooming, take a picture with his barber next to the encased chair, buy memorabilia such as tee shirts with cost of \$20.00 and limited edition Giclée prints priced at \$1,700 of The President seen in rare form sitting in his chair receiving a haircut.

Hyde Park Hair Salon is located:

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CORRECTION



(Left) Gorma Minnie (center) Roosevelt University President Chuck Middleton (right) Musu Dixon

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CONGRESSMAN BOBBY L. RUSH RECEIVES KENNEDY-KING COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Left: Wellington Wilson, CCC Chancellor Wayne D. Watson, PhD, Center: Congressman Bobby and Carolyn Rush, KKC President Clyde El-Amin, Joann Horton, PhD.

Congressman Bobby L. Rush, 1st District, Illinois, received the Distinguished Service Award at the First Alumni Scholarship Gala, Friday March 13 in the Main Theater at Kennedy-King College. Congressman Rush recounted his days as a Black Panther recruiter in the late 60's and how students were politically engaged and motivated by the Black consciousness movement to evoke change.

The evening featured an historic first conversation with all living presidents of Kennedy-King College: current president, Clyde El-Amin, City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor Wayne D. Watson, Wellington Wilson, Joann Horton and Harold Pates who was streamed-in live from California.

The transition years from Wilson Jr. College to Kennedy-King College were captured in a video presentation covering late college presidents, Maceo Bowie, the college's first Black president and Ewen Akin with interviews by KKC professor's emeriti, Robert L. Cruthird and Jeanette Williams. They shared compelling insights of the college's social history

by incorporating past events of how student protests lead to the emergence of the college's first Black president, as well as how that tradition has been sustained. The video is based on research compiled for a book they are co-authoring about the college from its inception through 2007.

KKC was founded as Woodrow Wilson Junior College in 1935 and was operated by the city of Chicago until it became part of the State of Illinois community college system in 1966. The school was renamed in 1969, to honor Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Performances were done by KKC 2009 Idol Winner Emanuel McKenzie-Jones, second runner-up Serilla Gross, KKC Choir, Sh'Von Nicolle, MUNTU Dance Theater, Chocolate Chips Theatre Company and local recording artists.

Proceeds from the event support the revitalization of the Kennedy-King College Alumni Association under the leadership of former KKC scholar and retired staff member, Madie Cannamore.

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ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA HONORING FIRST LADIES OF AFRICA BY SHOSHI MABINA



US Doctors for Africa (USDFA) will host benefit gala in Los Angeles, California on April 21, 2009 at 7PM in The Beverly Hills Hilton, 9876 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. The benefit will honor African Synergy Against AIDS and Suffering, a non-governmental alliance organization of 22 first ladies from Africa. The formal attire gala supports the first-ever U.S. based Leadership for Health Summit that will highlight the first ladies' initiatives to forge new partnerships with U.S.-based agencies and corporate foundations, and identify actionable goals regarding HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health and girls' education.

Expected First Lady attendees include current members of African Synergy and other active First Ladies from across Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Comoros, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and more.

African Synergy Against AIDS and Suffering, formed in 2002 with the aim of "pooling our efforts for more concerted and concrete action to alleviate suffering" and fighting HIV/AIDS throughout Africa. Collaborations to date include the opening of maternal health clinics, HIV treatment centers, orphan care programs and vocational training schools. In July 2008, African Synergy approached USDFA to begin a five-year partnership focused on expanding these efforts across the continent. The April 2009 summit will be the first undertaking of this partnership.

The host committee include: **Quincy Jones, Holly Robinson Peete, Mattie Lawson, Pauletta Washington, Cookie Johnson, LaTanya Richardson Jackson, Jackie Avant, Ken Kragen, Courtney Phillinganes, Dolores Robinson and Ellen Palevsky.**

For tickets to the summit benefit gala visit www.usdfa.org; call 866-663-2613; email rsvp@usdfa.org; single ticket prices are \$250.00 / \$375.00 / \$500.00. For more information, please visit www.leadershipforhealth.org.



WAL-MART IS INVESTING IN THE FUTURE



Wal-Mart is the presenting sponsor of Tavis Smiley's "America I AM: The African American Imprint," a four-year touring museum exhibition that celebrates the impact African Americans' actions, innovations and teachings have had on nearly 400 years of American history. The tour opens on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth date on January 15, 2009, and runs through May 3, 2009.

We were also able to provide a \$12.5 million letter of credit through the Wal-Mart Foundation to start construction on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C. We are proud to be a part of a project

that will help future generations uphold the legacy Dr. King stood for by studying his work, ideals and vision for America.

It's personally gratifying to be part of Wal-Mart's effort to invest in the continuing history of Black America. I'm constantly aware that whatever I've achieved in my own life is the result of investments others have made in me. They ranged from the highly motivated teachers in our schools to the elderly "porch ladies" who watched over the community's children. They delivered the message that we were the future, and our future would only be limited by our own goals and commitment.

No matter who you are, or how you do it, giving back is one of the best ways to make a big difference.

Esther Silver-Parker, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., is charged with the strategic planning and execution of Wal-Mart's relationships with community-based organizations and leaders, where Wal-Mart does business



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GREAT BLACK WOMEN IN HISTORY

BY SHOSHI MABINA



Michelle Obama



Shirley Chisholm



Bessie Coleman



Gloria Gilmer

The National Association of Colored Women formed in 1893, bringing together more than 100 black women's clubs, in response to black women's clubs being refused from exhibiting at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. The Black women's rights founders and leaders of NACW included Harriet Tubman, Frances E.W. Harper, Ida Bell Wells-Barnett, Mary Church Terrell, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin and Anna Julia Cooper. Their original intention was "to furnish evidence of the moral, mental and material progress made by people of color through the efforts of our women". In 1910 three of the NACW leaders, Ruffin, Wells-Barnett, Terrell, enlarged their social activism by helping to form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). By 1916, NACW had a membership of over 100,000 women who worked to create kindergartens, nurseries, settlements, and homes for working girls, dependent children and the elderly. Two years later nationwide membership grew quickly to 300,000. NACW's later focus was on civil rights in the military and school desegregation,

voter registration, anti-lynching legislation and restoring Frederick Douglass's home in Anacostia, Washington, D.C.

In the same year NACW was founded, breakthrough came in 1893 when Colorado was the first state to adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote. After that a domino effect causing other states to follow suit behind Colorado: Utah and Idaho in 1896, Washington in 1910, California in 1911, Oregon, Kansas, and Arizona in 1912, Alaska and Illinois in 1913, Montana and Nevada in 1914, New York in 1917, Michigan, South Dakota, and Oklahoma in 1918 until a national legislation passed in 1920 allowing women to vote.

Even though Black women were given the right to vote in 1920 and Black men were guaranteed the right to vote by the 15th Amendment in 1870, several tactics were created to prevent Blacks from voting. All, but few, Blacks could afford the Poll Tax, qualify for the Grandfather Clause (if your Grandfather could vote then so could you) or pass the literacy test; few of the many strategies set in place to stop Blacks

from voting. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned the local laws and traditions used to prevent Black women and men from voting.

Leading to the Voting Rights Act, a chronicle key political events and leaders influenced eliminating grievances for equal rights for women, which allowed for the concept for Women's History Month to exist. Prior to the women's movement in the 60s, the women's right began to take notice on a national scale when the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention occurred in Seneca Falls, NY. At the women's right convention, Frederick Douglass gave persuasive arguments to supporters and non-supporters attending the convention to sign the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments, detailing their reasons for equal rights and set the agenda for the women's rights movement. Thanks to Douglass, twelve Resolutions were adopted asking for equal rights for women and women's voting rights.

The women's movement grew attention during the 60s, when Shirley Chisholm co-founded National Organization for Women

(NOW) and founder of the organizations first chapter, New York NOW. Chisholm along with other NOW members worked together to stand against racial, sexual, classism and homophobic oppression of power and privilege by a few.

After the 60s, America celebrated Women's History Week in accordance with International Women's Day for the first time in 1978 in Sonoma County, CA. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration of Women's History Week to a month, and March was accepted as Women's History Month. The priorities of women's rights issues has since shifted to a broader spectrum of American life, including such topics as affirmative action, immigration, media activism, welfare and health.

Despite the achievement of the women's movement, the advancement of women should continue to be encouraged. The timeline is a brief summation on the success of the women's movement.

YOU HAVE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

Michelle Obama First Black First Lady of the United States of America.	Mae Jamison First Black woman to travel in space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour in 1992.
Susan E. Rice First Black woman US Ambassador to the United Nations.	Gloria Gilmer First Black woman to deliver the Cox-Talbot Address at the National Association of Mathematicians lecture in 1992.
Anika Noni Rose Disney’s first animated Black Princess.	Shirley Chisholm First and only Black woman to run for President of the United States in 1972.
Condoleezza Rice First Black woman Secretary of State.	Willie Hobbs Moore First Black woman to earn a Ph.D. in Physics in the United States at the University of Michicagan in 1972.
Stephanie Tubbs-Jones First Black woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representative seat in Ohio’s 11th district in 1998.	

Constance Baker Motley First Black woman federal judge in 1966.	Madame CJ Walker First Black woman millionaire when she toured the country promoting her hair products for Black women and training sales agents.
Lorraine Hansberry Wrote first Broadway production written by a Black woman in 1961, A Raisin in the Sun.	Bessie Coleman First Black woman licensed Pilot in 1921.
Althea Gibson First Black woman to compete at the U.S. Championships in 1950. In 1956, becomes first Black woman to win a Grand Slam title, winning the French Open. A year later, first Black woman to win Wimbledon and U.S. Open singles title.	Ida B. Wells-Barnett Pioneering Black feminist and civil rights leader against lynching.
Euphemia Lofton Haynes First Black woman to earn a Ph.D. in Mathematics in the United States in 1943 from Catholic University.	Octavia V. Rogers Albert Interviewed freed slaves after Emancipation to make a collection of narratives, The House of Bondage, Charlotte Brooks and Others Slaves in 1890.

COMED CEO SHEDS LIGHT ON NEW TIMES

ComEd offers solutions to those needing assistance with their electricity bills, as well as ways to save money and energy. ComEd understands several of the customers they serve are having a hard time paying their bills promptly during these new times of a recession.

ComEd Chairman and CEO, Frank Clark, has chosen to help. Clark, former mailroom clerk for ComEd, is the company’s first Black CEO, happens to come from poverty, faced adversity and racism and fully understands the plight of hard working families struggling to cover payments.

ComEd now offers assistance programs to match every need.

- **CARE Power Up** provides customers in need with energy assistance grants provided by ComEd and other customers who make voluntary contributions through a match program in which ComEd matches up to the first \$100,000 donated to the fund;
- **Summer Assistance Program** provides \$30 for each of the three summers months between June and August,
- **Appliance Recycling Program** will pay \$25 each for up to two refrigerators or freezers, haul them away and dispose of it responsibly - dismantling & recycling its parts;
- **Smart Ideas Central Air Conditioning Cycling Program** will credit up to \$10 during each summer month in exchange for you allowing your air conditioner’s compressor to

cycle off-and-on during times of peak energy usage;

- **Community Outreach Program** works with low-income communities to help with past balances to avoid service suspension;
- **CARE Helping Hand** is a one time offer with two options: Pay 90% of owed amount and ComEd will credit the remaining 10% -or- pay 25% of owed amount, avoid disconnection and agree to a payment plan on the remaining balance that can be paid over time without incurring any additional interest charges or fees;
- **Residual Special Hardship** offers a one time grant of up to \$1000 with documented hardship issue(s); and
- **CHAMP** helps active military personnel with benefits including cancellation of late charges, cash and extended due dates.

ComEd serves 3.8 million customers in the northern half of Illinois covering territory within the borders of Wisconsin, Iowa, I 80 and Indiana. The major expense for ComEd is maintaining and repairing existing electrical system. Expenses range from \$35 million to \$40 million. This includes overtime for crews, assistance from out-of-state utility workers and contractors overseeing 416 poles, 513 transformers and a total of 109 miles of wire and cable. Delivering that electricity requires prompt payments from customers and demands a lot of attention, which requires year round programs to prepare for peak conditions during harsh winters and blazing summers, while at the same time reply instantly when outages occur.

JULIA HUDSON LIVING UNDER HER OWN SPOTLIGHT

BY SHOSHI MABINA



Julia Hudson (left) and Harvey Star Washington (right) moments before Be Dazzled Fashion Show at Grand Ballroom Navy Pier - Photo by Shoshi Mabina

Julia Hudson made a fierce entrance into the Grand Ballroom of Navy Pier by letting the world know “she is here and wants to move on”. Hudson, sister of Jennifer Hudson, was invited by image makeover expert Harvey Star Washington to participate in his 15th annual Be Dazzled Fashion Show and receive the Be Dazzled Inspiration Award. Hudson returns to the spot light after the vicious murder of her son, mother and brother.

Before Hudson walked the runway, I spoke with her. Hudson said, “If I was to not be able to function, if I was to not be able to get up, that would mean William and the devil won. They took enough from me.

They won’t take nothing else from me.”

“Her story was inspiring to us all, we wanted to honor her [because] she well deserves it,” Washington said. Washington gave a call to a good friend that knows both Hudson sisters to inform them his heart went out to the Hudson family after the horrible incident. He wanted to give her a platform to express a side of herself that the world had not seen before.

“Woman have to look good, we focus on the full figured woman who are often overlooked, everyone needs to feel and look beautiful,” he said. “We thought that we would

inspire her, but instead she ended up inspiring us. We imagined she would come into [the four week] rehearsals sad and depressed, but she came in with spunk. She does not hold back and let’s you know where she is coming from,” Washington said. He has since adopted her as his god daughter and loves her for the intelligent, good Christian she is. He continued to say, “She is an unnoticed hero, a never-talk-about hero.”

During the Be Dazzled event, Washington took everyday full figured woman and dazzled them with accessories and the latest garments including day wear, cocktail wear and evening gowns.

When asked if Hudson feels as though being selected to be in her first fashion show served its purpose to inspire her to continue on with life, she said, “You never know what might happen, each day can be inspiring.” She continues to pray each day and keep God in her heart. She also said she is also getting reality television show offers and considering leaving her bus driver position to accept them.

Washington has produced more than 300 events under the name “Experts the Image”. Washington was the image producer for “Monique’s Fat Chance.”

AWARD FOR WGN-TV’s MERIDEE



Picture taken by LeShawn James

President Todd H. Stroger and the Cook County Board honored WGN-TV’s Merri Dee for her more than 40-year successful career as a broadcaster, community relations director, fundraiser, advocate on behalf of adoption, women’s issues and education, and as a spearhead for victim’s rights.

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WALKING IN THE FOOTPRINTS OF BACK OF THE YARDS BY SHOSHI MABINA



George Vaughn

Chicago has been providing the best meat selections since the rise and dominance of the Union Stock Yards which was located in the Back of the Yards neighborhood for 106 years. Today you will find George Vaughn of Ranch House Meats providing Chicago commercial and residential consumers fine quality meat at the Back of the Yards 4100 S. Ashland Swap-O-Rama market every weekend. Through out the week he renders direct client services of a wide selection of steaks, pork, poultry, fish and seafood to households, event planners, business owners and restaurants through out Northern Illinois.

The Yards gained Chicago the reputation as being “Hog Butcher to the World” and was the center of the American meat packing industry, in which more meat was processed in Chicago than in any other place in the world due to the westward expansion of the railroad system, closure of the north-south Mississippi River trade routes during the Civil War and small stockyards unable to handle the mass arrival of meatpackers and livestock to Chicago.

The Yards’ era marks a significant period in the city’s economic and social history. Meat selling in the The Yard started on December 25, 1865 after six months of construction and closed at

midnight on July 30, 1971.

Thirty years later, the decentralization of the packing industry provided Vaughn the opportunity to enter the meat distribution business. He began as a meat salesman for Steakhouse Quality Meats in 2001 and with the help of his then wife, Cheryl, in six years he gained several connections to launch his business attempt as a sole proprietor when buying the distribution rights from Ranch House Quality Meats for the Chicagoland area.

“I like talking with people. It is fun and exciting. The other thing, is getting a chance to see the kids of my customers grow up over the years,” said Vaughn. Vaughn’s philosophy of “boutique style” service is the fundamental basis of his business, which has landed him contracts that are loyal, not only for the virtue of his products, but for his customer service.

“George refused to settle with accepting his circumstances of growing up in a dilapidated area [of Chicago]. I baptized him and been knowing him all his life. He is honest, dependable and a hard worker who does not know how to stop working,” said Rev. Dr. George Hunter former pastor of Vaughn’s church home Union Tabernacle Baptist Church.

His source of honor stems from his exceptional grandmother, the late Mattie Vaughn, as being the most influential person in his life. “I know George when his Grandmother would bring him to church as a little boy. My mother and his grandmother were good friends,” said St. Clair Jordon, retired U.S. Post Office employee. She continued to say, “I have been buying from George for years now.

It is unbelievable how good all of the products are. I like that it is pure meat, with no waste. The thing I like about getting meat from George is that people don’t have to go to the store, seeing that he brings it to you.”

Vaughn has been an active member of the Church Trustee Board for several years and currently serves as Chairman. Under his leadership he has helped the church building undergo a much needed refurbishing, including new carpeting, roof and structural repairs to both the kitchen and bathrooms.

Jeff Sweeten, of Matthews Roofing, met Vaughn after being hired to repair the church roof. “He is hands on with helping getting the church together. He is a hard worker and was helpful with repairs around the church.” In addition to being impressed with Vaughn’s work ethic he is also impressed with the degree of meat excellence Vaughn supplies, bringing him to treat his staff with gifts of meat during the holidays, including surf and turf company parties.

Vaughn’s skills and ability to connect with people were first shaped as a car salesman. He was very successful, having received several salesmanship awards during his tenure as a car salesman. “I met George when he was buying a car from me a little over 15 years ago. He joined me at the dealership after I asked him one day if he ever thought about selling cars. I trained him on the ethics of a good salesman,” said Rev. Marion T. Wise current pastor of Union Tabernacle Baptist Church.

“He is a good fella and his meat is good. You can taste the difference,” said Millie Roberts whose children

have been friends with Vaughn since they were all kids. Roberts cooks her selections to make delectable Haitian dishes that everyone takes note of the taste of the meat quality.

As a humanitarian, he promotes human welfare with charitable gifts to church members every three months by giving meat away. He teaches both his children, Tyler, 15, and Jasmine, 10, the same respect for people.

Find George Vaughn at Swap-O-Rama market between 7:30AM – 5PM, Saturday & Sunday. Take 39th St. (Pershing Rd.) west, turn left on Ashland Ave. heading south and find 4100 S. Ashland on the SW corner on the right side of the street.

Peoples Club of Nigeria History (PCNI)

BY SHOSHI MABINA



The People’s Club of Nigeria was founded by Nigerians who are impelled by the desire to foster good relations amongst mankind and to sponsor and promote charitable and philanthropic causes. The club is a social organization whose goals and objectives are to provide and promote recreational and social facilities, activities for, and understanding among its members in particular and the members of the public in general; to provide club houses at various branches of the club; to provide and establish social welfare and entertainment centers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's J. Roberts, A. Machanic and O. Bowman. Photo by Andrew Eccles



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's J. Roberts, A. Machanic and A. Jackson in Mauro Bigonzetti's Festa Barocca. Photo by Nan Melville

The genius of Alvin Ailey forever changed the perception of American dance; today the legacy continues with Artistic Director Judith Jamison's remarkable vision and the extraordinary artistry of the Company's dancers. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT), recently recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital "American Cultural Ambassador to the World," marks its 50th anniversary of showcasing African American cultural expression and American modern dance.

"I am honored to be a part of his legacy," said Chicago native Vernard Gilmore, 12-year dance troop member. Ailey passed away at the age of 58 in 1989. "Two weeks ago we went on a group outing in Los Angeles to Ailey's grave site and I was quiet the entire time feeling I'm responsible to carrying on his vision." Ailey led a group of young African American modern dancers that forever changed the perception of American dance in 1958. "I was exposed to dance as a child when my mother, a trained dancer, would put me in [our neighborhood] Englewood Back-to-School Parade." He continued to say, "[Even though] I attended Curie Performing and Creative Arts High School with a TV studio major, at 17 I was mesmerized to take training at the Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theater with Randy Dunkin, Marquita Levy, Harriet Ross and Emily Stein." Gilmore is set to perform all of the Ailey Classics during the anniversary celebration running April 1-5.

The opening night show on Wednesday, April 1 will have a performance by Grammy Award-winning female vocal ensemble Sweet Honey In The Rock. The program for AAADT's exclusive Chicago engagement at the Auditorium Theatre, features an exciting mix of classic and new works by Alvin Ailey, Robert Battle, Hope Boykin, Mauro Bigonzetti, George Faison and Elisa Monte. The finale of each program is "Revelations," Alvin Ailey's most significant cultural masterpiece. Since its premiere in 1960, more people around the world have seen "Revelations", a modern dance classic, than any other work.

For tickets, visit the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University box office at 50 E. Congress Parkway; call Ticketmaster at (800) 982-ARTS or (312) 902-1500; or log on to ticketmaster.com. Single ticket prices are \$30 / \$45 / \$59 / \$69 / \$82. For general information, please visit www.auditoriumtheatre.org.

AILEY PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. "Go in Grace", "Suite Otis", "Revelations"

Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. "Blues Suite", Excerpts of "Streams", "Choral Dances", "Mary Lou's Mass", "The Lark Ascending", "Hidden Rites", "Night Creature", "Cry", "Phases", "Landscape", "For Bird – With Love", "Caverna Magica", "Opus McShann", "Revelations"

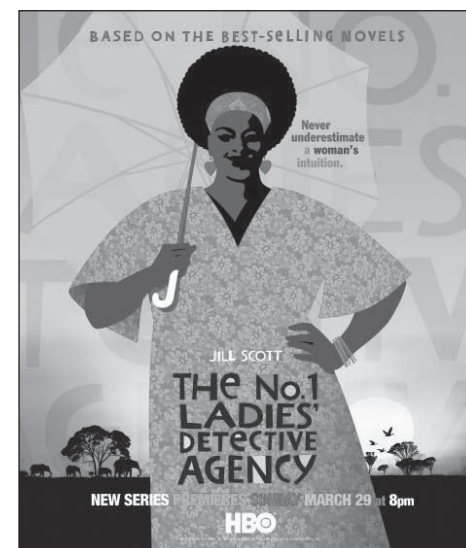
Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. "Festa Barocca", "Treading", "Revelations"

Saturday, April 4 at 2 p.m. "Blues Suite", "Suite Otis", "Revelations"

Saturday, April 4 at 8 p.m. "Festa Barocca", "Treading", "Revelations"

Sunday, April 5 at 3 p.m. "Night Creature", "Unfold", "Suite Otis", "Revelations"

REFRESHING TAKE ON AFRICANS



Travel to Botswana and stay for twelve days while relaxing in the comfort of your house watching the new HBO drama series *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* that was filmed entirely on location. For the first time Africans are featured on a television show series aired in America. The comedy/drama/mystery show offers a more positive perspective on life issues that are not normally shown. Gone are the stories about ship pirates stealing oil on the coast of Africa, gone are the stories about poverty stricken children with diseases, gone are the stories about indigenous, naked tribal cattle herders, gone are the stories that only talks about lions and elephants and everything stereo-typical we are accustomed to seeing on television about Africa. Finally a light hearted, upbeat show that sheds light on everyday, common people showing their "issues are universal".

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency is based on the best-selling novels by Alexander McCall Smith. As with McCall's novels, the series follows the many adventures of Detective Mma Precious Ramotswe (Jill Scott), as she investigates a variety of cases, helping townspeople solve personal mysteries along with Mma Grace Makutsi (Anika Noni Rose), her quarky, yet funny, uptight assistant.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 11

NO. 1 DETECTIVE CONT FROM PAGE 10

Rose traveled to Africa for the first time in her life to play the role she was “drawn to because it was completely away from Dreamgirls,” said Rose at the Chicago premier viewing at the The DuSable Museum hosted by HBO.

“I worked with a dialect coach for two to three months to train my vocal chords and mouth how to speak certain words”, she continued, “I was there for two months and taped for twelve days.” Rose does a wonderful job incorporating local gestures and accent used by women from Botswana. Mma Makutsi is amusing as she comically reminds Mma Ramotswe on her job interview that she graduated top of her secretarial college, with a “97 percent—the highest score in the history of my school” not a 96 percent.

Mma Makutsi may come off shy and timid at the beginning, watching the series, you later discover she is intelligent, thoughtful and courageous as she does her own investigations when she assists her boss on assignments.

PEOPLES CLUB CONT FROM PAGE 9

general; to provide members with benefits where necessary such as assistance and relief in sickness, accident, disablement and distress, to make periodic contributions for the advancement and promotion of charitable or benevolent activities and organizations; to affiliate or co-operate with other Social Clubs having similar aims and objects as People’s Club of Nigeria; to create and encourage the creation of any endowment fund and to raise funds either by borrowing or by fund raising activities within the limits permitted by law for the purpose of carrying out all or any of the above mentioned objects.

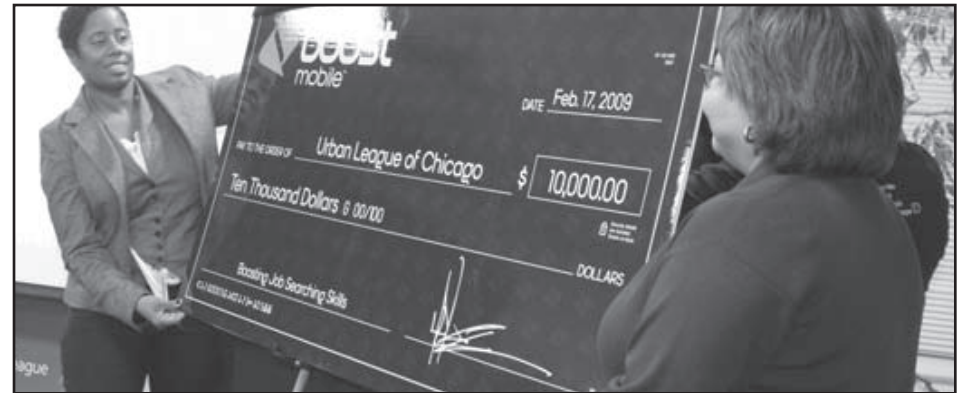
GET A BOOST FROM THE RECESSION BY SHOSHI MABINA



Caralene Robinson, Director of Brand Marketing and Entertainment for Boost Mobile

Boost Mobile hosted a Career Workshop at the Chicago Urban League to announce job opportunities, as well as donate \$10,000 to enhance CUL efforts. “Of our 93 years of establishment, this is the first time in 30 years we have hosted a career workshop”, said Cheryl Freeman-Smith, CUL Director of Workforce Development at the opening of the event. CUL advocates for economic, educational and social progress committed to growing Chicago’s African-American workforce & business community. In addition to giving job applications and a considerable donation, Boost Mobile gave fifty randomly selected job seekers a prepaid mobile phone. The phones were offered for job seekers to receive call-backs from potential employees during their interview process. Boost Mobile understands that during these harsh times in a recession, not all individuals have a phone number to list on their resumes. All 250 attendees were pre-registered participants coming for job searching skills offered through Taylor Made Industries.

Althea Taylor, Executive Director and founder of TMI, stressed how



Caralene Robinson presents a \$10,000 check to the Chicago Urban League

improper voicemails are deal breakers for job seekers. “Hey yyyaaaaa’ll this yo’ girl/boy, holla at me and I’ll hit you back in a minute,” Taylor continued, “This will get a hang up response from employers who do not think you are serious.” TMI gave valuable job hunting lessons and business etiquette protocol tips. Topics included having a standard email address (“for example ibballin@email.com is not professional”), resume writing tips, ways to design a cover letter, how to ask for a reference, when to write thank you letters, salary negotiations and how to work a job fair. TMI also provided one-on-one sessions for attendees to get personalized tips and lessons.

“Take every opportunity that comes your way,” said Boost Mobile Anthony Arguelles, speaking of how he advanced from a mall kiosk representative for Boost Mobile a few years ago to the company’s Regional Marketing Executive. He explained he made himself extra resourceful when he took on varied tasks that were not within his job description. “Hard work pays off,” said Caralene Robinson, Director of Brand Marketing and

Entertainment for Boost Mobile. Robinson who’s family is from the Virgin Islands described to me that she came from a working class family and is familiar with people needing to “predict payments in tough economic times” and that “everybody wants to stay connected.”

Boost Mobile, prepaid division of Sprint, offers services with no contracts, credit checks nor activations fees, now has started the “Unwronged” plan. The plan is in response to the sign of the times and that consumers feel helpless and frustrated with other prepaid wireless providers who add in activation fees, overage charges and extra costs for services like voicemail and roaming. Boost Mobile wants to change that by offering Monthly Unlimited, a straightforward pricing plan with no additional Telecom Taxes, activation fees, roaming charges, traveling or long distance fees. Chicagoland job seekers and beyond now have unlimited talk, text, Web and walkie-talkie for \$50 with no long-term contracts or dropped calls from mobile services like Cricket.

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