

SMART GUIDE

YOUR GUIDE TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Event Listings

2009/FREE/VICTORIOUSLEGACY.COM

Collectors Edition

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Your **2009 SMART GUIDE** to Black History Month



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SMART Guide Colouring Contest:

(This contest is only open to youth
ages 4-8 and 8-12)

Show us your interpretation of President
Barak Obama by colouring his image below
and then mail the finished copy to Victorious
Legacy. The winners of the colouring con-
test will be the recipient of cool, fun prizes.

Remember, "Yes You Can!"
visit us online at www.victoriouslegacy.com
for more details.



Welcome to SMART GUIDE 2009

Your guide to Black History Month

There is a new breath of life injected into the Black community of Canada. One of hope, belief and encouragement. One man was able to show us the path to excellence and achievements through his adamant stance on YES WE CAN for CHANGE HAS COME. This man is U.S. President Barack Obama.

By following in his footsteps of excellence, together we can move mountains. There are no more excuses!

We invite you to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Black History Month in Ontario with us. May this guidezine help you to share in the many achievements of Black Canadians throughout history.

In this SMART Guide to Black History Month events, you will find many special features including our 2009 Black History Month event calendar, Black History Month event listings, historic timelines, feature stories, and a special colouring page of President Barack Obama for children.

We encourage our young ones to take part in the Victorious Legacy contest by sending in their completed colour image of President Obama on page 3, for their chance to win a feature in the 2010 SMART Guide plus other prizes.

As this guide is the first published issue, we hope you will find the content enjoyable, inspirational and informative. We believe history is a lesson we should all partake in everyday; our victorious legacies throughout history remembered; and our various cultures embraced. Together, through all our struggles and all our successes, we are and will forever be connected.

For your additional convenience, the SMART Guide is available to you online with other special features. If your event was not listed in the guide; or if you wish for the SMART Guide to be available in your city, visit us online. We welcome your comments, as well share with us your stories, and suggestions for next years guide.

Happy reading to you all!

Blessings and Hotep!

From the Victorious Legacy SMART Guide 2009 Team!

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P.S. We extend a warm thank you to our sponsors and supporters for your belief in the SMART Guide to Black History Month Events.

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Politically Inspiring Youth
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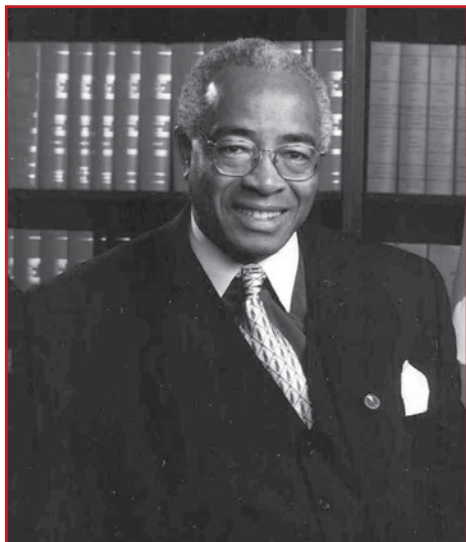
We look forward to growing with you as well welcome others to grow with us too.

A special thank you for the kind words from our various level of government supporters, you too have contributed to the province and this nation through your own victorious legacies.


Toronto Convention & Visitors Association

seetorontonow.com

LETTERS OF SUP



Dear readers,

I am delighted to be a part of the very first Victorious Legacy Smart Guide for Black History Month. This new project is a great initiative that will certainly help unite the Black community across Canada (and the United States). It will also contribute to informing people of the history and heritage of Blacks across North America and the events and activities organized.

Black History Month is celebrating its 30th anniversary in Ontario, making this year's events even more significant. February gives us the opportunity of raising the awareness of the signifi-

cance of Canada's Black population.

February is a time of reflection and celebration. Together, let us all reflect on the history of our people and the countless struggles we have had to overcome over the years. And let us also celebrate the numerous achievements of Black leaders, artists and athletes from around the world who have inspired us to become better human beings.

2009 is also a year of endless possibilities for all people of colour. It is the year that Barack Obama became the first African American to receive the keys to the White House by becoming the 44th President of the United States of America. Now, more than ever, Black

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to readers of the Victorious Legacy SMART Guide.

In Ontario, we are fortunate to be able to draw on the cultural tapestry that enriches our communities and strengthens our province. Our government celebrates the depth of our social, cultural and economic experience—it is the foundation and guarantee of our much-admired quality of life.

February—Black History Month—is a time to learn about and pay tribute to the many ways in which Black Cana-

dians have helped shape our unique society, and to recognize the invaluable contributions they have made to our province and our country.

I commend Analogy Global Communications for providing Ontarians with this informative guide. Featuring schedules of events, stories, profiles and significant historical facts, this vital resource helps to bring the rich legacy of the Black community to life for citizens of all backgrounds.

Please accept my best wishes for a meaningful and memorable Black History Month.

*Dalton McGuinty
Premier*



TO UNDERSTAND HOW ANY SOCIETY FUNCTION
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MEN AND

PORT

children have the opportunity to dream big and to reach for the stars.

I congratulate Analogy Global Communications and its team for taking the initiative of publishing such an important guide.

To those who are organizing events, I wish you much success in all of your activities. And to everyone across Canada and around the world who are celebrating Black History Month, I hope you will enjoy the many activities that pay tribute to the people of African descent.

Happy February!

Hon. Donald H. Oliver, Q.C.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is my great pleasure to extend greetings to readers of the first Victorious Legacy SMART Guide for Black History Month, published by Analogy Global Communications.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Black History Month in Ontario and

many special events are being organized to commemorate this momentous occasion. The Victorious Legacy Smart Guide is a wonderful initiative to inform residents about the events and activities taking place for this cultural celebration in February.

As you turn each page, you will discover stories, profiles and historical facts that serve to share the legacy of Black Canadians and educate and enlighten us about their victorious journey.

My congratulations to everyone at Analogy Global Communications for taking on this initiative, and many thanks to the sponsors and volunteers for their support of this most useful and informative publication.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for a great month of celebration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David Miller".

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE ONTARIO PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Dear Friends of Black History Month:

It has been my pleasure and privilege to attend events celebrating Black History Month for many years. They have been as interesting and fun as they have been varied. One of my challenges has always been keeping up with the ever expanding roster!

That's why the Victorious Legacy SMART Guide to Black History Month

Events is such a welcome addition. It combines a province-wide list of events during the month with helpful, practical information on communities and attractions. It will be available at churches, schools, libraries and many other places across Ontario.

I hope you will seek out and support this Guide. It's more than another list of events. It's an important new building block to help us make Black History Month more of an attraction for people across Ontario and elsewhere. It's another way we can increase awareness and build bridges between important

parts of our community and share our histories.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John Tory".

John Tory

Leader, Ontario Progressive Conservative Party

ONS, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE WOMEN. —ANGELA DAVIS

 **tourism**
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**Ontario Statement
by the Honourable
Margarett Best,
Minister of Health
Promotion, on the**

**publication of the 2009 Victorious
Legacy Smart Guide for Black His-
tory Month.**

On behalf of the Ontario Government, as the Member of Provincial Parliament of Scarborough-Guildwood and as the only Member of Provincial Parliament of color elected in the 2007 election, I would like to extend my congratulations to the publication of the 2009 Victorious Legacy Smart Guide for Black History Month. Black History Month is an occasion to reflect on our past, celebrate the present and more importantly, it is a time to look forward to the future resolute in our pursuit of our shared vision filled with hope for people of African heritage.

Black History Month gives us the opportunity to make an impact. We come together as a people, to reflect on our past, and to look to our future as Ontarians in unity. Black History and the Black experience are indeed a vital part of our collective heritage and celebrated by all people of all different cultures.

I am pleased to call the Province of Ontario my home. A place where people from all over the world, people of different languages, culture and faiths live in harmony as neighbours, as co-workers, as colleagues, as friends and as people of one race—the human race. This past year, we have much to celebrate with our cousins of the South's election of the first person of color, Barack Obama, to the Presidency of the United States of America.

It is also a time to highlight the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians to the prosperity of the Province of Ontario and our country. We are a community of different cultures living in one of the most diverse places on Earth. As we celebrate Black History Month, let us look to the past and show respect, but move forward with a hope and vision for a great future.

*Margarett R. Best
Minister*



Dear Kerry Ann:

Congratulations on the launch of the Victorious Legacy SMART GUIDE for 2009. Black History is one of Toronto's major cultural celebrations and having a guide that provides a broad look at all of the month's events is a great resource.

I wish you the greatest success with this year's publication and hope that this success will continue in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

*Michael Thompson
Councillor, Scarborough Centre
Ward 37*

**WE BLACK MEN HAVE A HARD ENOUGH TIME IN OUR OWN
HAVE ENOUGH ENEMIES AS IT IS, TO MAKE THE DRASTIC M
ADDING MORE WEIGHT TO AN ALREADY UNBEARABLE**



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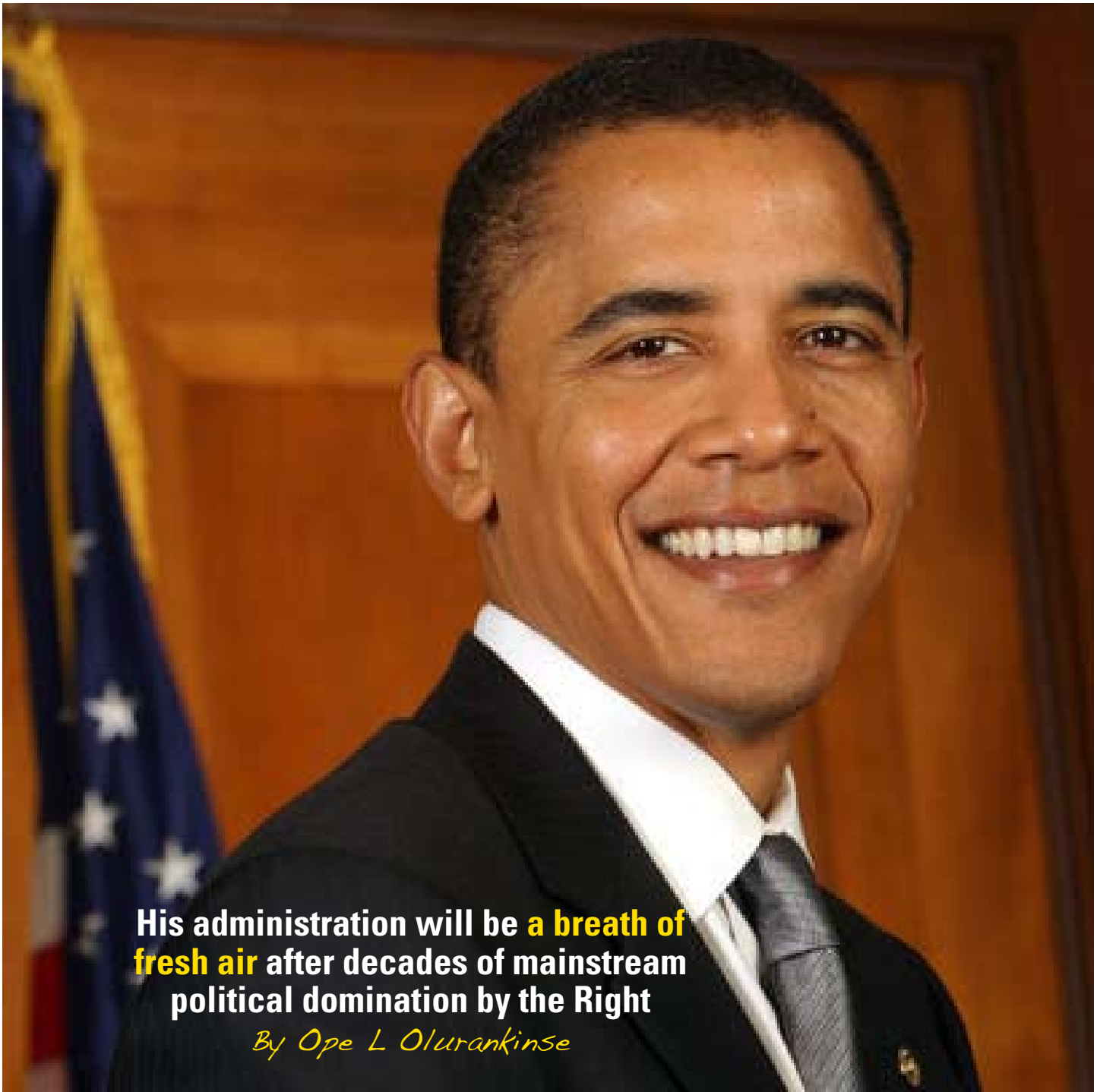


STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE, AND ALREADY
MISTAKE OF ATTACKING EACH OTHER AND
THE LOAD. –MALCOM “X” LITTLE



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His administration will be **a breath of fresh air** after decades of mainstream political domination by the Right

By Ope L Olurankinse

EVERY GREAT DREAM BEGINS WITH A DREAM
HAVE WITHIN YOU THE STRENGTH, THE PAT
REACH FOR THE STARS TO CHANGE THE W

BARACK OBAMA'S VICTORY AND WHAT WE CAN EXPECT

When Malcolm X told his teacher he wanted to be a lawyer, the teacher told him he should aspire to be something like a carpenter, for a Black person becoming a lawyer was not a “realistic” goal.

That was decades ago. Nowadays, Blacks everywhere can no longer be told to only aspire for what is “realistic” for them. Barack Hussein Obama is a living proof of that. And as the first Black President of the United States of America, undoubtedly, his election will remain historic.

Coming into office under the slogan of “Change We Can Believe in,” Obama is determined to positively turn things around in the U.S (and probably in the world) for better. His administration will be a breath of fresh air after decades of mainstream political domination by the Right.

However, it is no accident that Obama is being elected as President of the United States of America at this time, as the country is entering a severe crisis. He faces quite a number of challenges, but his first assignment will be to tackle the financial crisis which seems to be getting worse.

Although Obama’s tactic in addressing this issue may be slightly different from that of US President George W. Bush, he will be compelled to work closely with the leaders of other major economies.

We can expect the US foreign policy as well as the nation’s relationships with its friends and foes around the globe to change positively. For example, the relationship between the US and Iran, which has been extremely difficult for at least three decades, will get better as Obama would have to tread cautiously in order to find a workable solution.

Less antagonism and intrusion into the affairs of other nations will bring about greater cooperation for projects that are beneficial for both sides.

During his campaign, Obama also made it clear he did not approve Iran’s acquisition of nuclear weapons therefore, we can be rest assured that he will hold true to his word by starting a dialogue with Iran without insisting on the preconditions that had been set by the Bush administration.

We can expect Obama’s team of world-class leaders to successfully lead the US economy. This gives us

confidence that the new administration will reform the financial industry in a responsible manner and help prevent the US from going into a long, deep recession, which will have further effects for us as Canadians.

Furthermore, Americans can look forward to the expansion of health care, especially to families living near the poverty level. Obama’s focus is on providing access to health care for families who might otherwise go without.

As the nation and world economy rapidly evolves, the value of education continues to grow, affording more students the opportunity to attend college.

People who want to start or expand their small businesses can expect low-interest and fixed rate loans to achieve their dreams.

Like most ordinary Americans that also want decent jobs and housing, Obama can be expected to create a program to keep people in their homes, saving them from foreclosure. Simultaneously, he will introduce a program to employ people in decent paying jobs, while improving infrastructures across the country.

Obama believes in creativity, innovation and technology. Therefore, we can expect him to bring all three into his administration as well as creating the atmosphere for them since these have been stunted over the last eight years.

We can also expect President Obama to enter the US government, vetting all of the departments of government to insure they are functioning on behalf of the American people. Considering the damage the Bush Administration inflicted on the country and the world, it will be relatively easy to change the atmosphere Americans are currently con
continued on page 22...

TER. ALWAYS REMEMBER, YOU
IENCE, AND THE PASSION TO
WORLD. –HARRIET TUBMAN



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"YES WE CAN



ON FAMILY BACKGROUND

The young and gifted Chantelle Campbell is 21 years of age and knows what she wants. Born to a teenage mother and absent father in 1986, London, Ontario, she is the eldest two children. Chantelle recalls being raised in a very loving and encouraging family with church playing a very crucial role in her academic and personal life.

REFLECTION ON GROWING UP

As an adolescent, Chantelle faced many internal challenges in regards to finding her own distinct niche and place of belonging within the school system. She did not fit the standard profile of the athlete or performing artist. Soon, she began attending church at the age of 14 and participated within the various self-building activities promoted by the youth department, it was then she began to realize her natural God given abilities. One of which consisted

of possessing the ability to think and process seemingly difficult compositions, paired with the passion for community service and social issues. As such, based on this natural inclination to think critically, debate societal issues and her budding curiosity regarding legal matters, she decided to pursue a career in law.

TAKING EDUCATION HIGHER

Upon high school graduation, although accepted into various institutions and programs, Chantelle decided to pursue her post secondary education at York University. She commends York for its good standing reputation of academic social diversity, freedom of thought and continued service to its surrounding community as the reason for her choice. She pursued an undergraduate Honours double major degree within Law & Society and Philosophy, along with a practical ethics certificate. As a philosophy student she became well versed in theories of argumentation, theoretical concepts and the skill of persuasive writing. In relation to her Law & Society major, she became exposed to a variety of Canadian legal issues effecting the government, the local family and many special interest groups. Given this mixture of theoretical understandings in philosophy and practical exposure to legal issues her undergraduate education was very effective providing her the confidence to pursue future academic endeavours.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

Currently, Chantelle is in the process of applying to Law Schools for the September 2009 admissions. She also is seeking internship or employment within a reputable firm or company who can benefit from the sharpness of a pre-law student, enabling her to further develop and cultivate present skills. In the distant but near future, she desires to build a credible legal enterprise involving legal matters of Human Rights, litigation and employment law. Overall, she aspires to be a hard working, dedicated and integral part of society and in Black Canada's legacy, making her mark as a woman of excellence.

DREAMS CAN COME TRUE

Her dream is to travel the world and become exposed to the ways various cultures thrive and operate. However, despite her own aspirations she also desires to strongly give back to her community, in particular the Black youth of her community who are to often over-represented within a negative light. Many of whom are talented and unique individuals.

QUOTES:

"Who taught us to hate ourselves?"
—Malcolm X.

"Emancipate yourself from mental slavery" —Bob Marley

"Sometimes in life you have to determine the outcome and not let the outcome determine you"

—Jamaican Pantomime

EDUCATION HELPS ONE CEASE FROM
BY STRANGE SITUATIONS. -

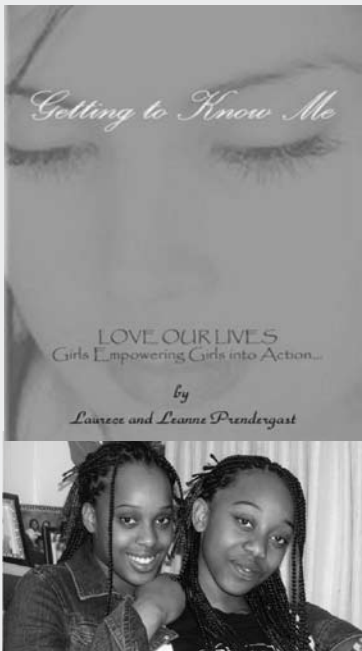
GENERATION"



ART CULTURE

Photo of students in the Modern Batik, Youth Express Project. The Youth Express Project engaged 60 youths from the

Jamestown and Jane-Finch communities in modern batik art workshops. The exhibition represents 80 original artworks. Many of the pieces express their cultural roots in all their beauty and complexity. Their art work will be displayed throughout the month of February, for Black History Month at the Etobicoke Civic Centre Art Gallery.



GETTING TO KNOW ME BIOGRAPHY:

Laurece and Leanne Prendergast are two teenage sisters 17 and 14 years old. They are young entrepreneurs who have started their own business called LOL for Love Our Lives. Their business aims to empower young girls to action and it also works in empowering boys. It is designed for teens to address their issues and support them in their discovery and use of talents. After experiencing bullying, low self esteem and much more, they decided to write a book to explore the challenges and choices pre-teen and teen girls face daily, the difficult decisions they have to make to survive the multiple pressures and influences. Their book is called *Getting to Know Me*.

Both girls are motivational speakers, who hold workshops, exhibitions, do drama and much more. They address issues such as peer pressure, low self esteem, bullying, dating and violence and the list goes on. They speak from a teen perspective, but give solid advice and research evidence. They refer to themselves as, "the yes

we can" generation and believe that their voice can influence change for good today.

THE BOOK

Their book, *Getting to Know Me*, was written out of their own teen experiences. In their book they share real life stories, have fun activities, interview other teens and also an evaluation that can help the reader to see how they feel about themselves. They give good, easy to follow advice and their book has already captured the interest of many. This book is a must, as it not only helps teens, but also enlightens adults about the experiences of teens today.

AM BEING INTIMIDATED
MAYA ANGELOU

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CANADIAN BLACK HISTORY TIMELINE

1827 William Hall was born and becomes the first Canadian sailor to win the Victoria Cross and he became one of Canada's most decorated military heroes.

1783 3,000 Black Loyalists arrive in Nova Scotia after the American Revolution on the promise of freedom, land and provisions; but received land unsuitable for agriculture, or no land at all - forcing them into a pool of cheap labour.

1793 The Abolition Act was passed in Upper Canada, now known as Ontario. This law freed slaves aged 25 and over, making it illegal to bring slaves into Upper Canada. Consequently, Upper Canada became a

safe haven for runaway slaves. The Abolition Act also made Canada the first jurisdiction in the British Empire to move toward the abolition of slavery.

1916 The formation of a segregated, non-fighting unit, allows Blacks to enroll in the military. It was responsible for crucial work including bridge building, trench digging and road clearing.

1930 On February 28th, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) staged protests against an inter-racial marriage, in Oakville, Ontario

1915 The phrase "Real McCoy" was coined after Elijah McCoy developed a lubrication device for use in locomotives to provide continuous flow of oil without clogging the engine.

1925 World-famous jazz pianist Oscar Peterson is born.



1940s In the Second World War, Black Canadians' persistent effort to join the armed forces was rewarded with suc-

1984 Honourable Senator Anne Cools was named Canada's first Black senator.

1991 Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré, became the first Black Canadian to be appointed judge in the Province of Quebec. She worked to build bridges between Quebec's diverse communities.

1972 Rosemary Brown of Vancouver, British Columbia, becomes the first Black woman elected to the legislature in Canada - serving the British Columbian Government from 1972-1986 and the first Black, woman to seek leadership of a Canadian national political party - the New Democratic Party (NDP).

1989 On February 22nd, Judge Julius Isaac became the first Black Canadian to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Ontario.

1995 Mr. Justice S. M. Milly became the first Black Canadian to be appointed to the Court of British Columbia.

1604 Mathieu Da Costa is the first recorded free Black person to arrive in Canada. Da Costa was an Interpreter for the French explorers Pierre Du Gua De Monts and Samuel de Champlain.



1689-1834 Two thousand African slaves are brought to Montréal to serve as domestics.

1779 In an effort to win the War of American Independence (1775-1783), the British invited all Black men, women and children to join the British cause in exchange for their freedom. Many accepted the invitation, and as a result 10% of the United Empire Loyalists who emigrated to the Maritimes were Black.

1628 The first known slave, Olivier Le Jeune, arrives in Canada from Africa as a young child. His name was changed to the name of one of his owners.

1734 A house fire set by escaping slave Marie-Joseph Angélique, spreads and destroys half of Montréal.

1850 Ex-slaves introduce tobacco farming in Ontario.

1853 Mary Anne Shadd founded the 'Provincial Freeman,' from her residence in Chatham, Ontario. She was the first woman to found and edit a weekly newspaper in North America

1858 Governor James Douglas invited 800 Blacks from San Francisco to settle in British Columbia. They formed Victoria's first militia unit the 'Pioneer Rifles'.

1837 March 24th, Black men receive the right to vote.

1850-1860 Following the passage of the 'Fugitive Slave Law' in the U.S., up to 50,000 Blacks flee to Canada via the Underground Railway, led by Harriet Tubman.

1880s Railway porters begin to play a major role in the struggle for Black rights in Canada, emerging as leaders of Black communities in Montréal and other urban centres.

Through their unions, such as the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Order of Sleeping Car Porters, they gained recognition for Black workers.

1946 Viola Desmond was arrested and jailed after refusing to sit in the 'colored' section of the Roseland Theater in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. The balcony section of the theater was reserved for Blacks and referred to as 'nigger section'.

1970 Africville a 500-year-old Black community is bulldozed by the Nova Scotian government.

and they went on to serve with distinction in all branches of the military.

1960's Integration within Nova Scotia schools begins.

1968 Lincoln Alexander became the first African-Canadian member of Parliament and later on the first to serve as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

2005 Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean was appointed as the first Black Governor General of Canada in 2005.



2008 Donna Harrow and Angela Wilson are engaged in an emotional embrace after the Toronto District School Board votes 11-9 in favour of opening an Afrocentric school.

Justice Minister
Melwyn Ro
st Black to
Supreme
mbia.

2007 Ontario Government commemorates the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade Act.

2008 African American Barack Obama becomes the first Black President in the United States. Creating an air of hope around the world and Canada.



SMART GUIDE 2009

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EVENT LISTINGS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, 2009

Event: Official Launch of Black History Month

Time: 3 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Notes: Admission: Donation to the Black History Ottawa

City: Ottawa

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 2009

Event: Ubuntu - The Cape Town Project

Where: Tarragon Theatre

When: Ongoing to March 1

City: Toronto

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2009

Event: Author Lawrence Hill reads from 'The Book of Negroes'

Where: Brockville Library, 23 Buell Street (corner of George)

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Event: RBC Black History Month

Where: Toronto Board of Trade, Downtown Centre First Canadian Place, Adelaide Street entrance

City: Toronto

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2009

Event: AfriCan Theatre Ensemble presents "Anansewa!"

When: Ongoing to Feb. 28

Description: Special Drama Presentation for Schools during Black History Month 2009!

Event: Honour Before Glory at the

When: February 4, 2009

Time: 6 a.m.

Where: Canadian War Museum

City: Ottawa

Notes: In Celebration of Black History Month, Citizenship & Immigration Canada, a special presentation by Anthony Sherwood, producer of the award-winning documentary film, 'Honour Before Glory'.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2009

Event: Errol Lee BHM Presentation

Time: 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Where: City Playhouse Theatre

Event: Ballaké Sissoko in Concert

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: York University Tribute Communities Recital Hall

Notes: Contact Info 416-736-2100 ext. 22926

Event: Bob Marley Day Celebration

Time: 11 a.m.

Where: Toronto City Hall

City: Toronto

Notes: Official proclamation by Mayor David Miller of Bob Marley Day February 6th, 2009.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 2009

Event: Caribbean Tales Youth Film Festival High School Screening Series

Time: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: Various Locations

When: Today through to Feb. 28

Notes: Info: 416-598-1410

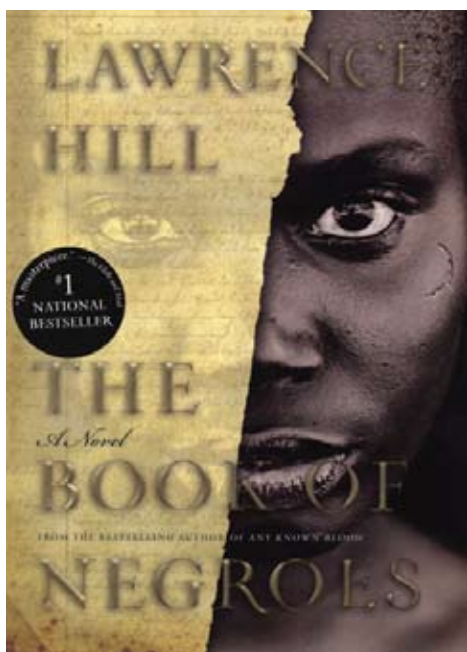
Event: Ache Brasil

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Capitol Centre, 150 Main St.E.

City: North Bay

Also playing on Feb 13, 15.



GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SEEDS OF DESI



Event: Umoja
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Auditorium
City: Ottawa
Notes: Admission: \$15–\$20
Event: First Friday's Black History Month Edition
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Aura Lounge - Yonge & Sheppard

City: Toronto
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2009

Event: Kuumba
Where: Harbourfront Centre
 235 Queens Quay West
City: Toronto
 Also playing on Feb 8, 14, 15.
Event: Black History Month Conference
Where: North York Central Library
 North York Central Library and Youth-Assisting-Youth are celebrating Black

History Month by hosting a free half-day conference.

Notes: Youth ages 12 and up can participate in workshops with inspirational guest speakers who will expand their minds. These speakers include Dwayne Morgan from 'Up from the Roots, Stacey McKenzie from Walk This Way, Anne-Marie Woods aka Amani from Imani Enterprises and a special guest performance by the Black Ice Step Team & Famous.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2009

Event: Kuumba
Where: Harbourfront Centre,
 235 Queens Quay West
City: Toronto
Event: 10th Annual BooNooNooNos Brunch
Where: The Jamaican Canadian Centre
City: Toronto
Event: African and Caribbean Stories
Where: Ottawa Public Library
 120 Metcalfe
City: Ottawa

Notes: Info 613-818-7082

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2009

Event: Miss Julie: Freedom Summer Presented by CanStage
When: Ongoing until March 7
Where: Bluma Appel Theatre,
 St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front St. E.
City: Toronto
Event: Film: 'Knocking on Heaven's Door'
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Auditorium

City: Ottawa

Notes: This is a free documentary film about the dedicated children's organizations in Jamaica that utilize creativity and compassion to promote and support violence prevention activities with Jamaican youth. The documentary is being produced by Anthony

Sherwood Productions Inc. An award-winning film production company specializing in documentaries, educational films, television programs and musical concerts. The film has been funded in part by the Canadian International Development Agency of the Federal Government of Canada (CIDA). The documentary will show how Canadians are trying to make a contribution of the development of youth in Jamaican society.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2009

Event: Exhibition Passages to Freedom: 'Secrets of the Underground Railroad'
Where: Hosted by London Children's Museum until March 1
City: London
Event: Oprah Winfrey Presents 'The Colour Purple' The Musical About Love
When: Ongoing to March 14
Where: Canon Theatre, 244 Victoria St.
City: London

Notes: Toronto Passages to Freedom is generously supported by the Department of Canadian Heritage and London Heritage Council.

Event: Many Rivers to Cross Art Exhibit at the St. Lawrence Market
Where: St. Lawrence Market

Time: 5 p.m.–7 p.m.
 Exhibit display from Feb 11–16.
 Daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m.





City: Toronto


Notes: Many Rivers To Cross: The Toronto Journey, 1900–1950 will officially open on February 10, 2009, between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the historic St. Lawrence Hall. After being built in 1850, the Hall often accommodated events dedicated to Abolition and Antislavery activities in response to American slavery. The exhibition

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SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
25		26		27		28	
Ontario Black History Society's kickoff event to launch Black History Month		BHM 2009 Calendar					
1		2		3		4	
Official Launch of Black History Month—Ottawa		Ubuntu -The Cape Town Project		Author Lawrence Hill reads from 'The Book of Negroes'		AfriCan Ensemble "Anansi"	
				RBC Black History Month Event		Honour Before the Canadian Museum,	
8		9		10		11	
Kuumba		Miss Julie: Freedom Summer Presented by CanStage		"Passages to Freedom: Secrets of the Underground Railroad"		ANSA BH	
10th Annual Boo Noo Noo Nos Brunch		Charmaine Crooks, Jack Diamond Sports Personality of the Year Award		Oprah Winfrey Presents 'The Colour Purple'		Black Theatre Works presents Skin by I	
African and Caribbean stories		Documentary Screening: 'The History of Slavery'		Many Rivers to Cross Art Exhibit at the St. Lawrence Market		'The Spirit of the Tubman'	
15		16		17		18	
Kuumba		Family Day		BHM Pay-it-Forward Day		Leslie McColl performance	
Music with Bite presenting Ache Brasil		Theatre Direct presents Binti's Journey in their new space at the Wychwood Barns				Fore Sisters Story Marie-Josep Rose Fortune Shadd and Vi	
						25 The National Black Chorale performance of the Diaspora in Africa	
						Gender and Race in the Commemoration of Black Women's History in the Caribbean Photograph	

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>lar</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Toronto Police Services Black History Month celebrations</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Halton Black History Month “Kick-off” and Unveiling of the “Legacy Poster 2009”</p>	<p>31</p> <p>‘Legacy’ Festival Presents the First Black History Month Gala</p>
<p>Black Theatre presents “Renewal!”</p> <p>More Glory at Canadian War Museum, Ottawa</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Errol Lee BHM Presentation</p> <p>LSUC/CABL Panel Discussion and Reception</p> <p>Ballaké Sissoko in Concert</p> <p>Bob Marley Day Celebration</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Bob Marley Day</i></p> <p>Caribbean Tales Youth Film Festival High School Screening Series</p> <p>Ache Brasil</p> <p>Umoja</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Kuumba</p> <p>Black Theatre Workshop pres- ents Skin by Dennis Foon</p>
<p>PM Luncheon</p> <p>Workshop pres- ented by Dennis Foon</p> <p>of Harriet Tubman</p>	<p>12</p> <p>The African Studies Committee at Carleton University presents Louise de la Gorgendiere</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Randy Weston performs</p> <p>THEOP presents, Ache Brasil</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Kuumba</p> 
<p>Leslie McCurdy's solo of ‘Things My Grandfather Saw’, in role as Angelique, Mary-Ann and Ola Desmond</p>	<p>19</p> <p>18th Annual Black Law Students’ Association of Canada</p> <p>‘The Spirit of Harriet Tubman’; a one person play written and performed by Leslie McCurdy</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Deadline for submissions to the Mathieu Da Costa Challenge</p> <p>COBA (Collective of Black Artists)–Banta Poster contest submission deadline for 2009 Spirit of Mandela Week</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Canada Post issues two stamps featuring Abraham Doras Shadd, and Rosemary Brown</p>
<p>Thaniel Dett presents Voices from the Diaspora... Dett to Africa</p> <p>Black History: Celebrating 150 Years of Black History in Brit- ain: A Journey</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: Ailey II presentation of Hope</p> <p>Black Canadian Legends</p>	<p>27</p> <p>South-South Encounters: Conversations across South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean: Panel Discussion</p> <p>ESA – Black History Celebration</p> <p>POWER-UP 2009! Toronto International Celebration Church</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Northern Terminus Journal Launch</p> <p>Malinke Masters Billy Nankouma Konaté and Sani Abu</p> <p>Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: Ailey II presentation of Hope</p>

consists of fifty-five period photos and artifacts. At its opening, on February 10th, Joe Sealy and his accompaniment will feature his Africville Suite. The exhibition sponsors are: Tourism Toronto, City of Toronto Councillor Michael Thompson's office and the St. Lawrence Hall. The exhibition will open with a reception, by invitation only, on February 10th and will remain on display at the Hall between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. until February 16, 2009.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 2009

Event: The African Studies Committee at Carleton University presents Louise de la Gorgendiere

Time: 1:10 p.m.

Where: History Lounge - Room 433 Patterson Hall, Carleton University

City: Ottawa

Description: On the topic 'Ghanaians in Canada - Canada in Ghanaians: An ethnographic analysis'

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 2009

Event: Randy Weston performs

Time: 8 p.m.

Where: York University Tribute Communities Recital Hall

Description: One of the world's foremost pianists and composers

Notes: Info 416-736-2100 ext. 22926

City: Toronto

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 2009

Family Day

Event: Theatre Direct presents Binti's Journey in their new space at the Wychwood Barns

When: Today through to Feb. 28

City: Toronto

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2009

Event: Leslie McCurdy solo performance of 'Things My Fore Sisters Saw', in role as Marie-Joseph Angel-

ique, Rose Fortune, Mary-Ann Shadd and Viola Desmond

Time: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Where: Brock University - Centre for the Arts at 500 Glenridge Ave.

City: St. Catharines

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2009



Event: 'The Spirit of Harriet Tubman'; A one person play written and performed by Leslie McCurdy

Where: Woodstock Museum
466 Dundas St.

City: Woodstock, ON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2009

Special: Deadline for submissions to the Mathieu Da Costa Challenge—an annual writing and artwork contest for young people 9-18 years of age

Event: COBA (Collective of Black Artists) Banta

When: Today through to Feb. 22

Time: 8 p.m.

Where: Fleck Dance Theatre (formerly Premiere Dance Theatre)

Special: NMCF (Canada) Poster Contest Submission Deadline for 2009 Spirit of Mandela Week—Changing the Way Society Treats its Children and Youth. Eligibility rules available on NMCF website

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 2009

Special: Canada Post issues two stamps featuring Abraham Doras Shadd, and Rosemary Brown

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2009

Event: African Film Festival

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: Auditorium

City: Ottawa



Notes: Admission: Donation to Black History Ottawa

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2009

Event: The Nathaniel Dett Chorale presents Voices of the Diaspora... Dett to Africa

Time: 8 p.m.

Where: Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front Street West, Toronto

Notes: Repeated Feb. 28th

City: Toronto

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, 2009

Event: Black Canadian Legends

Where: Queen's Park - Ontario Parliament

City: Toronto

Notes: Progressive Conservative Party Leader John Tory hosts Black History Month event at Queen's Park featuring legendary Black Canadians. This event is invite only.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 2009

Event: South-South Encounters: Conversations across South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean: Panel Discussion

Time: 4 p.m.

Where: Music Room, Hart House, U of T

City: Toronto

Event: POWER-UP 2009! Toronto International Celebration Church

Where: 190 Railside Road, North York,

Notes: Info. 905-794-1139

City: Toronto

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 2009

Event: Northern Terminus Journal Launch

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Grey Roots Museum & Archives, Grey Road 18, Owen Sound,

City: Owen Sound

Event: Malinke Masters Billy Nankouma Konaté and Sani Abu

Time: 8 p.m.

Where: York University Tribute

WHEN ORDINARY PEOPLE DECIDE TO DO EXTRA
FORM THEIR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS AI

POWER OF SPIRIT

By Stephanie Allen

Spirituality has been a significant part of Black culture since ancient times. It is who we are as a people! In fact, Africans during ancient times were more in tune with their spiritual powers than they are today. The pyramids of Egypt are an example of this as Scientists today are still trying to figure how the pyramids were built.

Science and math were instrumental in our spirituality. Even when Europeans first arrived to Africa to capture slaves, Africans used their spiritual powers to conquer the Europeans who later returned with guns in order to win their battle.

Today, it has been said that Black spirituality was embraced to help Blacks endure the ravages of slavery 400 hundred years ago. Now hundreds of years later, many of us still subscribe to the teaching passed down through the generations. But, with slavery long gone, is there a modern relevance? Today it seems 'spirituality' has little to do with organized religion. Is the shift from "religious" to "spiritual" inevitable or one in the same?

I remember being a youth at the age of 14 or 15 and going with a friend to her Pentecostal Church youth gathering. Always having considered myself God fearing, (I had been going to an Anglican Church quite regularly since the age of five) I didn't think I'd encounter anything new. All I remember is, one minute the pastor was recanting

the joy of Heaven, and God's promises for us all, the next he had dropped behind the pulpit flat on his back! Blam! Buddy was out! His eyelids twitching spasmodically, shaking and jerking about...I looked to my friend with wide concerned eyes- perhaps he was epileptic, maybe a stroke? Should we call the medic? The next thing I knew, young people around me were falling to the floor seemingly, with the same ailment. My God it's an epidemic!

What was even stranger was they kept mumbling to themselves undiscernibly. It was kind of like my old uncle Avner

**Today, it has been said
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was embraced to help
Blacks endure the
ravages of slavery 400
hundred years ago**

who always talked to himself and answer back. I later learned that this was the ecstasy of the spirit and talking in tongues was a natural by-product. I asked a few people if they had any idea what they were saying. Most of them didn't even remember doing it.

Come on! I don't mean to be disrespectful to anyone but I know if I had gone up to any of those kids and said "Hey, someone's stealing your ipod in the mudroom" they would snap to faster than Lil' Jon can say "Yeeaah!"

So why did these kids behave in such

a "possessed" way when they read from the same Bible I did. I wasn't enraptured. No one had told me I was supposed to be. No one had told me this was a necessary part of Christianity. If no one had told **them**, would they still have got "the Spirit" and fallen on the floor?

In this present day, you are more likely to hear that people are "spiritual" than religious. You especially know what I mean if you are in the dating world. In social network groups and other sites, one is likely to put under Religion - 'Other.'

"I myself am raised Catholic but now I'm more spiritual." We all know what that means. It means like so many others, I believe in a Higher Power but I haven't been to church since I'm ten years old (except on Christmas and Easter with my Mama).

Perhaps the religious teachings Blacks subscribed so readily to centuries ago have become:

A) Too tedious to follow in such a fast paced society.

B) Difficult to be loyal to and defend in such a multi-cultural (multi-faith) society.

C) Doesn't entirely fit with our current do-whatchya-like, ultra-permissible lifestyle. We not only need a quick and easy fix, but also something that relates readily to the culture we subscribe to.

continued on page 22...

ORDINARY THINGS THEY TRANS-
ROUND THEM. —OPRAH WINFREY

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LOOK YOUR BEST THIS SUMMER

With summer vastly approaching, enjoy work out tips that will help to get you and your family into tip-top shape this summer. VL interviews Jason Fisher, a Certified Strength Conditioning Specialist, Fitness Trainer and owner of KickStart Fitness to share some of his very own workout tips.

Jason earned his Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Performance from the University of Montana, which he attended on a full athletic scholarship for track and field. He regularly appeared on CP24's television show 'Perfect Fit' as a fitness specialist and has been featured in magazines such as Chatelaine, Toronto Life and Homemakers.

In 2006, Jason became a sponsored ambassador for Lululemon Athletica's clothing store. Besides training a diverse client base, Jason conducts fitness seminars and clinics, recently presenting to the prestigious All-Canada NIKE Camp.

Jason was the Director of High Performance for the Canadian & Ontario Soccer Association, where he conducted strength conditioning and testing for the National Soccer Programs. He has also worked with Canada's National Basketball programs and trained two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash, the Canadian all-time leading NCAA basketball

points scorer, Juan Mendez, and 2006 Seattle Supersonics draft pick, Denham Brown.

His training abilities have been highly recommended and received references from high profile people such as Olympic gold medallist Donovan Bailey and Toronto Raptors interim head Coach Jay Triano. Jason's cutting edge training concepts and methods provide clients with the most successful approach for optimum health and performance.

What are some fitness routines one can practice to start getting fit for the

summer?

I recommend doing strength training circuit, any sport of interest and other activities such as indoor rock climbing or stair climbing.

What are some exercises you find people do, that they shouldn't?

First off, any exercise is good for you. What people should do is listen to their body when it needs rest or is achy and eat the right meals for their body type. They should also exercise safely and focus on technique.

Describe what a typical workout with



THERE IS IN THIS WORLD NO SUCH FORCE AS THE
TO RISE. THE HUMAN SOUL CANNOT BE PERMANENT

you is like?

A typical workout with me is all about high intensity, enthusiasm and motivation with emphasis on proper technique. I love being creative with the workout routines, educating the clients on what they're doing and the reason for each exercise. Making use of time is also important to achieve optimum results.

You've worked with some big names in the past, what was training them

like?

Training high profile athletes and teams is sport specific. I focus specifically on the fundamentals of the game and how to minimize injury and maximize their performance.

Who would you like to work with next?

Ultimately I would like to work as a strength conditioning specialists for a professional team.

What workout tips can you offer for an entire family?

Family workouts are a great way to interact with each other. Try sports like soccer, volleyball or an activity such as rollerblading. These activities can be practiced indoors as well outdoors in the warm months.

POWER OF SPIRIT

continued from page 20

Therefore, we prefer text messages to testifying, cosmos to communion, "The Secret" to the sacrament and Oprah's Book club to The Holy Book. But one thing remains agreed upon among most Blacks - there is a God.

Psalm 34:4 says: "I sought the Lord, and he answered me: he delivered me from all my fears." Some might say

modern spirituality is a way of finding God through our own eyes and not anyone else's. If this is true, then even those who aren't particularly religious, may still be in good standing. Many view organized religion as an important part of who they are, but many others are finding that having their own, self-defined spirituality can be just as fulfilling, and a more comfortable fit than the one-size-fits-all religious cloak they were raised in.

BARACK OBAMA'S VICTORY AND WHAT WE CAN EXPECT

continued from page 10

fronted with on the inside and outside.

Obama's election also provides the highest possible visibility for the potential that can be reached for all American children, particularly those from low-income or minority families. As a Harvard-educated expert on constitutional law himself, Obama can be seen as a figure of a generation that throws away the bigotries that have plagued the US for a very long time.

With Obama as President, the political system in America has definitely regained confidence in the eyes of its citizens. Americans now have the opportunity to show

the rest of the world how great it is to have someone who represents them in the White House. Not only that, his election has once again, shown that we can aspire to be what we want to become given the opportunity. There is no doubt that Barack Obama is living the American dream and an inspiration to all of us. What can we expect? No more excuses!

The work of this Toronto-based freelance writer has appeared in Prestige, Planet Africa, and Afrika Herald Newspaper. For this issue, she writes about Barack Obama's election victory and what we can expect under his administration.

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ENTLY CLAIMED. -W.E.B. DUBOIS

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A JOURNEY TO THE PAST

I don't know how the conversation started that night! But after two plates of delicious Stew Peas made by my mother, and the openness of her cousin who was visiting us, I embarked on a journey to the past. A journey to maybe answer long awaited questions for the future, my future.

We were sitting around the dining room table, discussing my cousin's ex-girlfriend; mother of a 10 year old daughter. A child whose father happens to be his cousin! This is actually where it all started and below is the discussion that followed in my quest for truth, as I take a journey into my distant past.

KAT: (To cousin): So let me get this straight. Your cousin, is the father of the child from your present girlfriend?

COUSIN: Basically, yes!

(At this time, mother was trying to interrupt the conversation from continuing).

COUSIN: What? You'd rather I not say anything? (To mother)

I am open and have nothing to hide. You shouldn't either! She deserves to know the truth.

KAT: This is interesting! Sooo, how are you and your cousin related?

COUSIN: His father was white; brother to my father and his mother was mixed. Daughter of a White man and Black mother.

She actually was one of the Black workers who mined their house. One of her parents was related to her husband whom she had my cousin with.

KAT: So her father and husband are related some how?

COUSIN: Yup!

KAT: And mom, how did your father and mother meet?

MOTHER: Not sure, but they married while my mother was pregnant and with a child. His parents didn't approve because my mother was Black and my father came from a wealthy white family. They were sent to live on a farm away from the family home.

KAT: Did you ever get to see that side of the family much when you where young?

MOTHER: No. One or two of our aunts would visit, but that was it.

KAT: I remember once you told me you were raised as an orphan, how did that happen?

(Mother takes a deep breath as she prepares to tell her story of childhood.)

MOTHER: Well (pause), when my mother died of Cancer, my father was left to raise us and he wasn't able to look after all six of us.

(She clears he throat as tears begin to form in her eyes. She tries to hold them back)

MOTHER: I remember, one day he gathered us all and took us down to a ladies

house and asked her which of his six young children she wanted. I happened to be the one she picked and the others got divided amongst different family members.

KAT: How come she picked you?

MOTHER: Well, I was always a person that stood out and so....

KAT: What happened next?

MOTHER: What happened next was... I was left to live with her and became her slave around the house. She had me doing everything from the age of 6. One year later, when I was 7 years old my father died. (she goes off topic) He didn't bring Madge the day he brought us to that house though.

KAT: Who was Madge?

(There was a long silence. Mother, has realized she made a slip and now had to answer. I remember she once told me that she had an older sister who passed away. So I put two and two together and called it out.)

KAT: Madge was your older sister, wasn't she?

MOTHER: Yes.

KAT: So how come your father didn't bring her?

MOTHER: She was the most grown out of all of us - about 15 years old and she

THE GREATEST GLORY IN LIVING, LIES NOT
RISING EVERY TIME YOU FALL.— M



could help him around the house. But eventually she was sent away.

KAT: Why? (with deep interest)

MOTHER: Well, she was pregnant, and my father didn't want anyone to know.

KAT: Why?

MOTHER: Because she was pregnant with his child.

KAT: What? (In shock) You mean my grandfather had relations with his daughter and got her pregnant.

MOTHER: Well.... yes!

COUSIN: She wasn't his biological daughter. (he says to me)

KAT: That doesn't make it ok! OMG - What happened to her after that?

MOTHER: No one really knows except she died before giving birth. She was epileptic. I believe it was because my father was sleeping with her and that messed her up.

(At this point, I couldn't even fathom anymore of this direction into the past and could see neither mother, so I

switched back to her life with the woman who made her a slave.)

KAT: So what happened as you got older living with this woman?

MOTHER: At 14, I ran away and went to my White aunt who was raising my sister. She then took me back to that ladies house. At 15, I ran away again and this time went to your cousin's father's house and he too brought me back to that ladies house.

KAT: How come they kept bringing you back there?

(I can see further hurt and pain in her eyes at this point as she responds.)

MOTHER: I don't know.

KAT: How old were you when you finally left that place?

MOTHER: I was 16. The day I left, my white aunt had come by the house. The lady's husband was trying to always put the moves on me and that day I told her about herself (she smirks). I let the cat out of the bag about her husband trying to sleep with me. My aunt took me quick and rushed me out of that house to prevent anything from anything.

(A long pause)

MOTHER: You know, I wanted to be a nurse. I went to your cousin's father's house for he promised to pay for my education, but we got into an argument after he claimed I blamed him for my father's death. We didn't see eye to eye and you know me, we are both alike. I told him where to go and that was the end of my education.

KAT: So where is your father's family from? I heard so many different things.

MOTHER: They were from England.

COUSIN: But originally Germans though.

KAT: Well how did they end up in Jamaica?

COUSIN: The family that was in Ja-

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maica at the time were the workers for the Slave plantation owners in England. They owned lots of places.

KAT: So both your fathers family in Jamaica were the ones sent down there to watch over business?

COUSIN: Yes, something like that.

KAT: So the white people in the family were actually slave plantation owners.

COUSIN: Yup!

KAT: Innnterestiiiiing!

COUSIN: Back then though, to keep things in the family many times they married within the family.

KAT: I see. So where are the members of that side of the family now?

COUSIN: Most of them have died and the ones alive didn't really keep contact with us. But one of your grand-aunts in the US knows of their whereabouts.

KAT: Gees. (pause) Do you think she'll want to talk with me? You know, and share what she knows.

COUSIN: She's like 70 something now,

but why not. I used to have her number, I can see if I still have it.

KAT: Cool! What about your mother mom? Where was she from?

COUSIN: We don't know. They never kept records.

KAT: You mean we can trace the White side of the family, but not the Black side? There are no records of your mother's family?

COUSIN: You got it!

KAT: That's very disturbing to accept. (We all take a deep breath and put a close to the discussion, realizing that with no way to trace our Black heritage, where do we go from here?)

In our families, there are many hidden secrets that may never be answered and others that will unlock many doors. Unless we take advantage of the elders in our family and inquire about our past, we can never know who we are & how far back our history goes in this journey called life.



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PROMOTIONS: Victorious Legacy SMART Guide wants to know "How do you celebrate Black History Month?" Visit us online at www.victoriouslegacy.com and share your story with us for your chance to win select prizes. If you have never celebrated Black History Month before, we hope this guide will assist you in finding fun events to attend, as well enlighten you about our Canadian History.

In addition, be sure to visit us online to find out about our appreciation dinner for our supporters and readers.

REMINDER: On May 30th, 2009, Camp Jumoke, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children living with the Sickle Cell Disease, will be holding its 15th Annual Turtle Walk-a-thon. The walk, which is one of Camp Jumoke's various fundraising initiative's, will be raising funds for 40 children to attend summer camp. The event will be held at Nathan Philip Square in Toronto. Together, one turtle step at time, we can help enrich and save the lives of SCD children.
www.jumoke.org.

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K@'S PICKS



This Black History Month, select a day to indulge and get pampered at the salon. Then, enjoy an exquisite meal before attending any of the numerous events happening for BHM, especially on Valentine's Day.

Here are my two 'Fav' picks of where to go in Toronto, even if you're single in the city.

MANYATA COURTYARD & THE SPICE ROOM

Greg Couillard's, The Spice Room & Chutney Bar is known for stirring up Hazelton Lanes. This exotic, intimate and sexy setting is great for dinner, private and corporate functions. The Spice

Room and Chutney Bar is a warm, inviting place for your taste buds to take an exotic voyage.

Manyata Courtyard Café is a majestic, versatile event space resembling the Palm Court at the Ritz, with 5,500 sq ft room ordained in cascading ivory drapes, tropical palms, wicker furniture and leather lounge seating.

The menu is inspired by Africa; the flavours are delightfully refreshing and can be customized for any taste. Its 25-foot open space ceiling has weight-bearing rafters than can hang any variety of lighting and props. Manyata's unique space tempts the imagination and your taste buds to create the most dramatic events with class and style.



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HAIR TO STAY

by Donna Kay Kakonge

Ages ago, as a child my first hobby was playing hairdresser to my Barbie dolls. Childhood upbringing was during 70s and 80s, but I was not much different from Black children in the 40s, who chose White dolls over Black dolls in a landmark study that led to the desegregation of American schools.

It was not that I liked chocolate over the vanilla; it really came down to the 'hair'. I wanted straight, long, blonde, brunette or red hair. Hair that blew in the wind, that could be tossed over my shoulder like Scarlet from 'Gone with the Wind.' And when I could not wish it on my head, I used a towel instead.

In my years of hair and self enlightenment, my findings have taught me the historic legacy of Black hair traces back to our African ancestry before transportation from the west coast of Africa to the New World. Early Africans understood the cultural and social significance of their hair, even with the variance in textures.

Black hair not only represented social class and aesthetics, it had a strong spiritual connection heightening its significance. Many once believed their hair was a way to communicate with the Divine Higher Being. An associate professor of history at Columbia University, Mohamed Mbodj once said, "The hair is the most elevated point of your body, which means it is the closest

to the divine."

Today, hair still remains to be an issue amongst women of colour. Get a group of Black women together and the conversation usually turns to hair. When last they went to the hair dresser? Who is wearing weave? Whose hair is too nappy? And whose hair is the 'perfect' mix?

I once always thought I was the only one who changed my hair just about every week. But I have found that many other women have permed, straightened, coloured, cut, lengthened and shortened, weaved or braided their hair as often as I have. My hairstyles have been a sign of the times inside and out-

I wanted straight, long, blonde, brunette or red hair. Hair that blew in the wind, that could be tossed over my shoulder like Scarlet from Gone with the wind.

side of my head. Many do not realize the direct linkage our hair has to our self esteem, and throughout history.

Over the past few years I have come to stop wanting Barbie doll hair. I spent many years in hair salons stretching out my super curly hair to dead straight and walking out of the salon with the wind blowing through my hair, and being able to toss it over my shoulder, like Scarlet. Who says wishes do not come true – of course they do, but for a price.

Madame C.J. Walker, a free slave in

the early 1900's, became the first Black self-made millionaire from her hair care products and invention of the hot comb; giving women of colour the straight flowing hair their white counterparts enjoyed all their life. Today, chemical straightening Black hair is known as a perm, there was never anything permanent about it for me. There was a war happening on my head. If my hair represented a people, straight strands with the use of chemical warfare were ethnically cleansing the curly strands.

Despite the chemicals, I have always loved the atmosphere of a salon. Hands vigorously massaging my scalp; stimulating my hair growth and then dealing

with the task of combing through my hair. Oh, how sweet it is to be pampered and my hair understood!

In this predominantly White country, Black hair salons create a Black world. During the civil rights movement in North America, barber shops and hair salons became town halls for discussions on race relations. Places for hair are no strangers to political activity, and it is in a salon where I came at peace with the politics happening with my own hair. Hairdressers looking at my

FAITH AND EFFORT REPEATED IS FAILURE

natural hair and not ready to open up a jar of Bone Straight perm has made me rejoice in the hair God gave me.

Professor and author Gloria Wade-Gayles once said, “My hair would be a badge, a symbol of my pride, a statement of self-affirmation.” It has taken me a long time, but I finally agree.

Back in the mid-80s, watching Oprah Winfrey’s bouncing and behaving hair was like a dream come true. I never knew that black hair could do that. I rushed to a salon, telling them to duplicate the Oprah ‘do’ on my head, and they did. The bad part is that just like what once happened to Oprah, my hair fell out. I was left with no hair on my head to duplicate any ‘do’.

Nina Simone sings “Black is the Colour of My True Love’s Hair” and actually I once thought my true soul mate was a bald man. But the inside love (that’s me) does have black hair. Learning to love my hair and myself is a never-ending project, so much so, I’ve decided to make it my concentration of study at the graduate level.

I was sitting with some friends of mine at a Montreal university pub, talking about what I often do - hair, when one of them asks, “Why don’t you do research on hair?” I thought she was crazy, and that I would never find information on the topic, but I was wrong on both counts.

I found out that everybody is talking about black hair these days. It’s like when Dr. Ruth came out talking about sex and everyone was discussing it. I don’t know who started the black hair talk, maybe Jesus himself, but black hair is top pick of writing topics, music, documentaries, and Internet sites.

With the growing sophistication of technology, and the millennium on its

way, I decided to catch up with the times and do my master’s project as an Internet site.

Finding a metaphor for the site was easy, for I had spent a lifetime searching for the perfect salon. A salon with hairdressers that paid more attention

to your hair than the telephone. A salon that encouraged you to feel beautiful - naturally. A salon with top-rate service, but low-rate prices. With the dream world one can create on the net, I decided to build a virtual one called Salon Utopia.

At Salon Utopia, there is a receptionist, Betsy, who greets you as you enter. Hairdresser Mariame fashions the inside of your head as well as the outside. Music plays in the salon that makes you want to let your hair down. There’s a resource room with a head full of information about black hair. And a hairnet café links you up with a selection of other sites about hair. Most importantly, just like any good hair salon, there is a freedom to chat and an opportunity to participate in an on-line discussion about hair politics.

The on-line community, linked through Excite Communities, is the vital part to the research coming out of this site. The most active elements of the site are the calendar and the discussion threads. The calendar acts as a bulletin board for everyone who is part of the community, and visitors as well. The community is like a clubhouse, where members and visitors are free to check out at all times of day and night

what is going on.

Presently in 2009, the website and the online community are now defunct. What does live on is a book that came out of my graduate research called ‘What Happened to the Afro?’ It is available online at www.donnaka-

Black hair not only represented social class and aesthetics, it had a strong spiritual connection heightening its significance.



Madame CJ Walker

konge.com.

I have worn my hair natural since 1993 and still counting – with no intention to go back to chemicals. I love every minute of being happy, nappy and hair to stay!

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