

# The Graces

The Official Newsletter of the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.



## CB Presidential Message



Greetings my Sisters and Brothers,

*One of the greatest things about the MALIK Family is the role we take on as educators. While we come from different occupations, including students, social workers, teachers, lawyers, etc, we all have the special ability to educate. This natural gift and talent gives us the potential to help lead our youth in the right direction. It is with our dedication and commitment to teach that we will be able to inspire young minds to make a difference. As you know, knowledge is power ONLY when applied It's our role and*

*obligation to use our life experiences to guide the younger ones towards experiences and lessons that will have an impact on their lives. Education is our ticket to success. But education should continue on outside of the classroom. With the summer upon us and the youth out of school, let us especially fulfill our roles as educators to teach our sisters and brothers to be engaged critical thinkers. We need to emphasize the importance of asking questions and challenging broad statements. We need to instill a sense of identity into our youth so that they feel confident and empowered to take over the world. I am proud to say that I have already seen my MALIK Family doing this.*

*The generation before us paved the way for many of the liberties and specialties we enjoy today. It is our duty to indebt ourselves to the generation after us so that the next generation will do the same.*

*Have a great summer, wear sunscreen and sunglasses, and be safe!*

Juceliz Batista  
Collegiate Branch President

### A Word of Thanks....

To all the Lovely Melodies,

I'm sorry it took so long to send this message of gratitude. All the anniversary correspondence sent to my home was thoroughly enjoyed by me and my family. As usual, in typical Melody style, everything was tastefully done and inspiring. Your organization is one of reasons that our Brotherhood is second to none and a shining light to all. The King in I salutes the Queen in you.  
Love & Blessings,  
Sir Crown Edward Rivers Jr.



July/August 2012

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# The Collegiate Corner

## Standing Out From the Pile

By Juceliz Bautista



I had the honor of participating in the Dulye Leadership Program this past Spring. This program for college-near grads that prepares students with the skills needed to survive the real world. Thirteen other students and I spent a weekend in the Berkshires, Massachusetts participating in several different workshops that ranged from networking success, professional dining etiquette, building your band, and perfecting your resume and cover letter. These workshops provided us with the tools to succeed in a professional environment.

Sue Edelstein, Founder and President of The Edelstein Group, gave a presentation titled “*So Sell Me Yourself*”. She gave advice on how to increase one’s competitive edge in the job search. She stated that the reality is employers review hundreds of resumes. It is important to make sure that your resume stands out from the pack so that later you will stand out during your interview and land the job.

How do we take these necessary steps? One must first ask herself these three questions:

- ✓ Am I an asset?
- ✓ Am I the company’s solution?
- ✓ And am I the proper fit?

Look at the personal traits you possess and how these can distinguish you from other candidates. Are you a passionate person? Are you humble, hard-working, and enthusiastic? After you have listed out all your personal traits, look at the experience you have. Any activity in which you put in your maximum work and effort COUNTS AS EXPERIENCE! Remember the skills that you gained from your jobs.

*“Every job, whether it is a scientist or a housekeeper, helps you gain skills.”*

Study abroad experience, community service involvement, conference attendance, sports teams and jobs are all valuable experiences that are important to highlight on your resume. If you find yourself with too much on your resume, evaluate the importance of a particular experience as it relates to the qualifications of that specific job. Also, evaluate which experience helped you gain the most skill and learning experience. Emphasize your ability to multitask. Don’t forget to highlight what you are most proud of. It is important to talk about the RESULTS these experiences yielded. Did you teach a group of students? Were you able to fundraise for a specific event? Did you bring home a winning championship? Make sure that your resume highlights your ACCOMPLISHMENTS and not your tasks.

# Melodies on the Move

## Kathleen Denise Taylor



Gracious Melody Kathleen D. Taylor, MA, CI/CT, NAD IV is a proud native Brooklynite who is a nationally certified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter. After obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hofstra University (major: Pre-Medicine), she earned her Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling Specializing in the Deaf from New York University after learning her godson was diagnosed profoundly deaf. Her career changing decision occurred because Kathleen realized her continuous dismay with the medical profession's lack of empathy or compassion to families' emotional, psychological, religious and cultures needs/concerns. Her goal was to "...make a difference in the world how others perceive people who are deaf. I want my godson to feel proud of himself as a Black Deaf male."



While at Hofstra, Kathleen became a member of the founding scale of the Malik Melody Sweetheart Club in Spring 1983 which consisted of 18 sisters, including: Barbara Johnson, Claudette Edwards, Maritza Arroyo, Tawana Evans, Mary Richardson, Veronica Evans, Maria Rodriguez, Maria Lopez, Bridgette Collins, Trina Franklin, Lisa Kirkland, Heidi Billings and Georgia Jacobs. The name bestowed on her was Jamila Zakiya Thema meaning "*beautiful and intelligent Queen*", a most befitting title for this multi-talented MELODY!

Kathleen also has extensive experience working in the non-profit sector as a Vocational Counselor/Evaluator/Trainer, Mental Health Practitioner, Domestic Violence Counselor, and Director of an academic program for deaf adults. A career as an ASL interpreter was never a thought or consideration. Members of the Black & Latino Deaf Communities began approaching Kathleen to interpret private meetings and events. Frequently being challenged to improve her skills by members of the Deaf Community, Kathleen took the initiative to attend workshops, seminars and trainings to further develop her skills. This led to an influx of work offers from interpreting agencies, post-secondary educational institutions and organizations. She has been self-employed as a freelance interpreter for 19 years and has been in the field of deafness 20+ years. After serving as its President for three years, Kathleen was recently elected to another two year term as President of the NYC Chapter of the National Alliance of Black Interpreters (NAOBI), Inc. She has also served as the Eastern Region Representative for NAOBI, Inc and board member of the NYC Metro Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.



Because of her passion for music and theatre, Kathleen has interpreted over a dozen on & off-Broadway performances, community festivals, and music videos including *Smokey Joe's Café*, *The Color Purple*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Seven Guitars*, *Jelly's last Jam*, *Bombay Dreams*, & *Bring in da Noise*, *Bring in 'da Funk* as well as music concert performances for *Tina Turner*, *the Rolling Stones*, *Michael Jackson*, *Madonna*, *'N Sync*, *Eurythmics*, *Allyson Williams*, and *Paul McCartney*.

Kathleen studied theatrical interpreting at Juilliard and continues to share her passion whenever possible. This love for music can be traced back to her high school years at Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School where she was the first female to play an instrument and was a founding member of the



school's highly regarded jazz workshop where she played the clarinet, alto saxophone, and electric bass. To this day, Kathleen continues to embrace her passion through the study of Middle Eastern dance. Kathleen has interpreted internationally & nationally for prominent religious leaders, such as Pope Benedict XVI, John Paul II, Bishop Thomas Dailey, Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood, Joel Olsteen and political, social & civic leaders, such as President Barack Obama; former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, Jesse Jackson, Senator Hilary Clinton, Iyanla Vanzant, & Andrew Young. Kathleen is a member of the Deaf Interpreters Ministry at St. Paul Community Baptist Church and provides interpreting services for St. James Cathedral Basilica. She is a staff interpreter for the NYC Department of Education, a well-respected deafness consultant, and a former Mary Kay Consultant. Kathleen was featured in a promotional segment of *LIFETIME FOR WOMEN* called "True Communicator". She can also be seen in a segment of the children's program *READING RAINBOW* with her godson and his family.

Kathleen always acknowledges those pioneer Black interpreters whom she looked up to as role models and members of the Black & Latino Deaf Communities who "pushed me because they wanted to see interpreters who has similar experiences & looked like them." Most importantly, she acknowledges her mother, Laura Taylor and her grandmother, Eleanor Younger who encouraged her to become the best at anything she wanted to pursue and who have attended every performance she has been involved in since she was a child.

Kathleen's newest and strongest motivations are her beautiful baby girl, Raven Savannah, stepdaughter Kayla, and her husband, Jonathan Taylor. Kathleen always testifies that God has truly blessed her over the years and knows, "I am still a work in progress who will always praise His name. But I love to laugh at myself as well. I'm learning not to take myself too seriously." On a personal note, GM Kathleen has been my mentor and true friend throughout my life and provided that unconditional love to encourage me to reach my dreams to this day. I am proud to call her my Sister and my friend. Kathleen may be reached via her web site: [www.KDTterpASL.com](http://www.KDTterpASL.com) or by phone at (917) 407-6771.



By GM Nathalie C. Lilavois, Ed.D.



If you wish to recommend a Sister or yourself for "Melodies on the Move!!" please contact me at [nlilavois910@gmail.com](mailto:nlilavois910@gmail.com) GM Nathalie Lilavois, Ed.D.

**SENDING OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES ...** Love and prayers to our Sister GM Veronica Evans and her family. At 98 yrs of age, Veronica's grandmother, Mattie Lou Pearse was called home on June 25, 2012. We wish you peace and strength. We hope you **dance**.

# MELODY AJUPA

*"In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us." Flora Edwards*



**MALIK MELODIES  
SISTERHOOD, INC.**



Why wait until Thanksgiving to donate to a food pantry? Hunger doesn't wait for the holidays, contact us to see how you can help.



**Melody Ajupa  
Canned Food Drive**

For more information and/or collection arrangements, please contact:  
[MalikMelodiesCB@gmail.com](mailto:MalikMelodiesCB@gmail.com) or [MalikMelodiesPB@gmail.com](mailto:MalikMelodiesPB@gmail.com)

*"Ajupa" is a shelter in the field that was temporarily used during the harvest for the Taino people. Many people in our society are oppressed by the existence of poverty and, as a result, there is a continual increase in hunger and starvation. The goal of this initiative is to help alleviate the hunger that exists within our communities.*

Melody Ajupa is a service initiative started by MMSI in 2011. Through Melody Ajupa, Sisters collect items such as food, books and clothing to donate to organizations which distribute them to people in need. Do you see the connection?

Melody Ajupa has completed several successful campaigns:

- ✓ **GM Janelle Natal** collected food and clothes at Richmond Community Hospital in **Richmond, VA**. The items were donated to Freedom House also located in Richmond VA. Freedom House has been serving Richmond's homeless and working poor for more than 25 years.
- ✓ **GM Maria Lopez** initiated a successful drive at The

Children's Aid Society in the **Bronx, NY**. She collected books, food and clothes that were subsequently donated to Help USA located in the Bronx. Help USA provides transitional housing to needy families.

- ✓ Our Collegiate Branch Melodies, **GM Juceliz Batista, GM Christine Delgado & GM Lorraine Sánchez** initiated a campus wide food drive at Syracuse University. Their combined efforts collected over 150 pounds of food that was donated to "IFC" (Interreligious Food Consortium of CNY) in **Syracuse, NY**. The IFC was formed thirty years ago with the goal uniting and networking various food pantries in upstate NY.
- ✓ And finally, **GM Anita Wallace** collected items at ShopRite of Croton (Croton-on-Hudson, NY) in **Westchester, NY**. Her efforts allowed a donation of 80 pounds of food, 54 clothing items and several household items to Croton Caring Committee and Croton Goodwill Store where them items will be distributed to people in need.

We are very proud of Gracious Melodies Janelle Natal, Maria Lopez, Juceliz Batista, Christine Delgado, Lorraine Sánchez and Anita Wallace for upholding MMSI's commitment to civic and social responsibility.

**TQIMSTQIY** By **GM Vanessa Miller**

For more information about Melody Ajupa, contact [malikmelodies@gmail.com](mailto:malikmelodies@gmail.com)



## Melody Ajupa: In the News!



*After a hard day of work, these tenacious women stop to take a quick photo. Credit Kailey Verni*

The article below was posted in the Three Village Patch on June 11, 2012 courtesy of Kailey Verni

### TAKING CARE OF OUR LONG ISLAND NEIGHBORS

This past Sunday at the Stony Brook University P-Lot, Donna Reilly-Ribaudo and **Nathalie Lilavois, Ed.D.**, principal of Mount Elementary School, collaborated together to create the First Long Island Cares Food Drive. With the help of **the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.**, over 500 non-perishable food items were collected in the short period of one afternoon. On top of that, nearly 90 pounds of clothing was collected. It was shocking for the donors to learn that over 300,000 fellow Long

Islanders go hungry every night. This food drive would not have been successful without the generous donors of the Three Village Soccer Club community. The board of the soccer club was kind enough to set up a tent to promote the food drive. Reilly-Ribaudo believes, "Parents should teach their young children that charity should be a part of everyday life, not just a once-a-year event." Efforts have already begun to plan, promote, and execute another food drive in the near future.

### MMSI Supports United Way Book Drive

**Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc** (MMSI) collected books from as far away as the Bronx to donate a total of 12 boxes to the United Way of Long Island Book Drive on Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. In addition to this donation, **GM Nathalie C. Lilavois** and **GM Sharon Harleston** represented MMSI at the event hosted by the Teachers Federal Credit Union (TFCU) at its Hauppauge



Headquarters at 102 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge. The event was held from 9 am -12 pm in conjunction with TFCU's Shredding Day. The generous donation of thousands of books for children, young adults and families will be put to good use by the United Way of Long Island and their partner agencies. Together with volunteers from United Way of Long Island, LI Cares, LI Headstart, and United Way YouthBuild, **Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.** assisted patrons, packaged books, and loaded the truck with almost ten thousand donated books, demonstrating once again the **Malik Melodies'** commitment to outreach, community engagement, and social action.

*Malik! Malik!*

By GM Nathalie C. Lilavois, Ed.D.



Dr. Lisa Kirkland, OD/Director  
Bright Eyes Vision Care

# Wellness Watch

## Type 2 Diabetes: Not Just for Adults Anymore

By Dr. Lisa Kirkland, OD PC

Over the past 20 years, there has been a steady rise (of epidemic proportions) of Type 2 Diabetes in children and adolescents. The link between childhood obesity and inactivity has been found as two of the major risk factors. Childhood obesity has become one of the 10 top health concerns in the United States. As a result, our First Lady Michelle Obama saw the urgency to address this issue with establishing her "Let's Move!" campaign.

It is not rare to know a child who suffers from Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (DM). As a matter of fact, there are approximately 13,000 children diagnosed every year with this chronic condition. Briefly the 1's and 2's of DM. After each meal, your body breaks the food down into glucose and other nutrients. Glucose gives us the needed energy to fuel our body by entering your bloodstream. In Type 1 DM - the body's pancreas loses its ability to produce the hormone Insulin. Insulin is required to regulate the amount of glucose that is circulating through our body. Sufferers of Type 1 DM have been known to be called Insulin Dependent for this reason. This condition is not preventable and unpredictable. In Type 2 DM - the body's pancreas is still able to produce insulin, but just not enough to properly regulate the amount of glucose circulating. This type has been formerly known as Non-Insulin Dependent, and sufferers usually take medication in the pill form. Normally this has been seen in adults around age 40 years old. Someone with undiagnosed DM will urinate frequently, be abnormally thirsty, loses weight even with an increased appetite (\*not just obsessed children are affected), and often feel tired. If these symptoms go unnoticed the next thing to follow would be complaints of stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, fruity-smelling breath, breathing problems, and even loss of consciousness. Long-term complications include kidney damage, heart disease, stroke, and vision impairment.

Surprisingly, Type 2 DM in children is not that easy to diagnosis. Often this diagnosis is missed because of the similarity to common flu-like symptoms. Far too often, eye care practitioners are the first to inform a patient of the possibility of Diabetes Mellitus. This condition can easily get picked up with a routine eye examination, which includes a dilated fundus examination, a procedure where the eye doctor places drops into the eye that temporarily block your iris from constricting when bright light is present. This procedure does leave your vision blurry for a few hours afterward, so be prepared not to drive or read until the drops wear off; wearing sunglasses is recommended and you can ask your doctor for disposable sunglasses. Diabetic Retinopathy - I've heard it called "Diabetes in the Eye" has many stages from mild to severe. Mild can be monitored every 6 months to yearly; moderate should be reported to your medical doctor and a retinal specialist; and severe may require immediate surgical intervention to preserve your vision. With Diabetes as the leading cause of new cases of blindness among adults ages 20 to 74, I am forced to say, "Please have your eyes examined yearly! Some conditions are asymptomatic until the very late stages. Prevention is the best treatment."

**A Special THANK YOU to contributing writers in this issue of The Graces:**

- ❖ **GM Lisa Kirkland**
- ❖ **M Sasha Powell**

# What's New?!

By: MGM Kim J. Bright



## MALIK Family Unites Across The Pond!

While traveling on business in London, England GM Marjorie Jean-Pierre was able to connect with our first international inducted MALIK Family member, Brother Chuba Nwoka who hails from the United Kingdom! They are pictured in front of the Tower Bridge in London. Brother Chuba joined the MALIK Family on March 10, 2012



## AIDS WALK NEW YORK 2012



On May 20, 2012 MMSI and MALIK Brothers participated again this year in the NYC AIDS Walk. MMSI's team far exceeded its fundraising goal of \$1,000 and collected a total of \$ \$3,050. *Special thanks to all who donated and walked with us this year – ESPECIALLY to our "Star Walkers" Ms. Sandrene Pinder and Ms. Tara McDonough who both raised over \$1,000 each!!! Thank you!!!*



## EXTREME MAKEOVER



Rain or shine!! MMSI is on the job as Sisters, GM Sharon Harleston, GM Nathalie C. Lilavois & GM Keisha Shook-Rivers participated in the Three Village Nature Preserve *Extreme Makeover* on March 31<sup>st</sup> at WS Mount Elementary School in Stony Brook, NY. Despite the cold, rainy weather everyone pushed forward with this community project to build a new kiosk and plant gardens on the premises. Go Ladies!

# Congratulations 2012 Graduates!

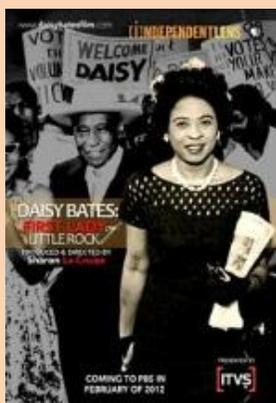


GM Nina Frasier M Lorianne Rivas M Melissa Charles & M Zainab Abdul-Karim



## OUR CIVIC AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY NEVER ENDS!

### DVDs ARE NOW AVAILABLE....

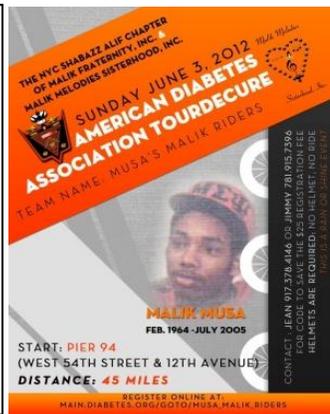


Sakkara Films, LLC  
221 E.89th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11236  
Email: [salacr1@verizon.net](mailto:salacr1@verizon.net)  
Cost \$20

Gracious Melody Sharon La Cruise's documentary, "*Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock*" (Director's Cut). This is an excellent film and a historical must have for adults and children alike. "*Daisy Bates became a household name when she fought for the right of nine black students (a.k.a "The Little Rock 9") to attend the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957*".

In the spirit of the Kwanzaa *Nguzo Saba* of Ujamaa "*Cooperative Economics*" and Umoja "*Unity*", please support and invest in OUR Sister... her production costs were well over \$600,000.... Production bills need to be paid and OUR future stories need to be told (Kujichagulia – Self Determination... *to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves*). Although you may purchase the video on-line, **please purchase directly from GM Sharon, so that she receives 100% of the sale and not a percentage.** To learn more about the film and Daisy Bates <http://www.daisybatesfilm.com>

MMSI joined forces with the NYC Shabazz Alif Kingdom of MALIK Fraternity, Inc. to fight and raise awareness about diabetes. On Sunday, June 3, 2012 we came together for the *American Diabetes Tourdecure* in memory of our Brother, Duane "Musa" Nelson. We lost Brother Musa to diabetes at an early age. He was undiagnosed and ignored the symptoms. Our team, Musa's Malik Riders raised \$575, which was 77% of our team goal.



### OOOPS!

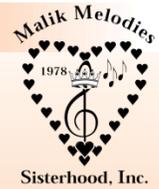
In the June/July 2012 issue of *The Graces*, we failed to realize the photo Baby Kiran and Baby Anjali, the Best Twins did not print; here are Brother Bilal's precious jewels born January 26, 2012!





## KUDOS from Our Crowns & Council of Elders

May/June 2012 Issue of *The Graces*



Sisterhood, Inc.

**“Simply AMAZING LADIES, keep up the not good, but EXCELLENT WORK.”**

*~ SC Bryant Stafford*

***To the Ladies of the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.,  
Congratulations on a well done publication. The PERSONAL TIME that you put  
into each Endeavor is intense! The final product is one worthy of mass  
recognition. I applaud you; I salute you on a JOB WELL DONE! Keep the Faith.  
Very truly yours,  
~Sir Crown Kyle H. Little***

***“Greetings My Queens,  
The Graces Newsletter is an impressive and exceptional product.  
Bless you and all my Sisters for all that you do.” ~SC Edward Harris***

**Greetings Queens,**

**I salute you on the release of this truly outstanding newsletter. I hope we as Maliks can continue to do work that will be worthy of future issues of "THE GRACES". The King in I "adores" the Queens in you.**

**~Bro. David Nelson, Council of Elders**



### **MALIKS WELCOME NEW BROTHERS TO THE JEEM CHAPTER!**

On April 14, 2012, Tukunfu Merin Luchan Haki Na Ukombozi Wa Watu Wo—the esteemed four who will fight for the rights and redemption of their people became KINGS!



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!**

 **Jonathan Cazar** – Kelem Yero K’ak Ayubu, strong hearted warrior whose fire cause him to persevere.

 **Michael Emono** – Kali Yero Coco Susa, ferocious warrior who is sensible and moves his people with action.

 **Adesoji Taiwo** – Heshima Yero Tohgeh Kaloome, the honorable warrior who is guided by the high king.

 **Jeriel Stafford** – Uchefuna Uheri Uzima Yero, the cunning one of good fortune and vitality who walks with warriors.

**By M Sasha Powell**

## MALIKs Making It Happen!!



The “*You Too Can Go To College Fair, Spring 2012*” was an exciting campaign as MALIKs spread the word about the college fair held at P.S. 46 Tappan School in New York City on May 9, 2012. Over 40 college and university counselor and admission officers were on hand to discuss with parents, children and adults how they too can go to college. Our Brothers did an outstanding job inviting everyone they met to the college fair to include radio airtime. If you followed Brothers

Erskine Issac and Johan Powell on Facebook during the campaign you lived vicariously through their experiences; some heartfelt and others hilarious.



Melodies provided promotional support and turned out in great numbers to support our Brothers First Annual College Fair and on-going initiative. To view a photo video of the event go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ia4isTGCOhc&feature=plcp>



Photo by Bro. Jabir Sahamu

The “*You Too Can Go To College Fair*” visited The High School for Science and Innovation in Washington Heights, NYC on June 6th. Our Collegiate Brothers represented well motivating the students to obtain a college education.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, August 4, 2012**

**It's time for the**

**Annual MALIK Family Community Celebration!**

**Yosemite Park White Plains, NY**

*\*NOTE: This is not the same park as in previous years.*

As always, family and friends are welcomed! More details to come!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us or the Shabazz Taa Kingdom at:  
malikshabazztaa@gmail.com

# In Honor of Women

By M Stacey Leveille

On Saturday, May 5, 2012, Haitian Americans for Change (H.A.U.C.) held their **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Mother's Day Extravaganza**. This event honored nine extraordinary community activists, educators, entrepreneurs and leaders. These women embodied the nurturing characteristics of a mother either in a literal or a figurative sense, acting as "mothers" to the Haitian community on Long Island. The luncheon, held at the Venetian Yacht Club in Babylon, New York, was filled with various forms of entertainment, raffles and a two-part award ceremony. A poignant highlight of the event was the postcards to a Haitian orphanage, which were available on every table for everyone to write a few words to children in Haiti. The idea of handwriting anything is now



considered an archaic form of communication, but the sentiment was more personal and heartfelt, allowing guests to actively participate in the program and feel good about contributing to a greater cause.



Mistress of Ceremony, Marjorie Etienne gave a fervent introduction where she spoke about the commonalities between herself as a past keynote speaker, and **GM Nathalie C. Lilavois**. GM Nathalie delivered an inspirational and impassioned keynote address where she encouraged all women to embrace their inner spirit and recognize this as a powerful source of strength because, ... "*Women, not girls, Run. The. World.*" GM Nathalie's guests included **GM Sherlyn Ortiz, GM Sharon Harleston, GM Maria Lopez, GM Lisa Kirkland Sutherland, M Zainab Abdul- Karim** as well as her family and friends. GM Nathalie received a number of awards and citations from local government figures in recognition of her participation.

Haitian Americans for Change (**H.A.U.C.**) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services for the Haitian American Communities in Long Island. Their mission is to serve the community through advocacy, and awareness on health, education, culture and sustaining economic stability. The organization was established to improve the lives of Haitian immigrants and Americans of Haitian descent. Immigrants are provided with the needed tools to assist their transition into their new lives. These tools include enrollment opportunities for English speaking and vocational courses as well as government aided programs that provide housing, healthcare and food assistance. Haitian Americans are encouraged to learn French and Creole, the common languages of the Haiti. H.A.U.C. participates as a sponsor for both American and Haitian celebrations. These events are treated as an opportunity to bring the communities together and develop social connections.

It was evident that the youth group of H.A.U.C. was well on its way to becoming incredible role models. These young women helped to introduce the honorees and performed throughout the afternoon. They showcased their talents and showed, not only a positive light for the youth, but also for the Haitian Community. Events like these demonstrate the importance of building capacity for the challenges of the future through positive role models that our youth can emulate. It was a pleasure to have attended this amazing event!

