

The Graces

The Official Newsletter of the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.



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The Graces Newsletter Staff Message

The sun is shining, the days are longer, and summer is almost here! This season is all about finding balance—celebrating our recent achievements while taking the time to slow down, recharge, explore new ideas, and enjoy the outdoors.

To help you make the most of these warmer months, we have put together a list of summer activities to keep you inspired, active, and connected.

- Dive Into a Summer Read: Join a community book club or pick up a new personal development book to read by the pool.
- Support a Farmers Market: Visit a local market on the weekend to stock up on fresh, locally grown produce and support small businesses.
- Explore Local Trails: Swap screen time for green time by visiting a local park/trail, for a morning hike or a shaded afternoon walk.

Whether you are planning a relaxing getaway, diving into some summer reading, or catching up on your goals, we wish you a wonderful and relaxing summer filled with laughter and memorable moments.



Congratulations!!!

MGM Gloria Bradshaw 20 Years of Pastoral Ministry



A Tribute to Visionary Leadership and Faithful Service

Dear Rev. Dr. Gloria Bradshaw,

On behalf of Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc., it is an honor to extend our warmest congratulations to you as you celebrate twenty years of pastoral ministry and your foundational role in the establishment of our sister organization, Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.

Two decades of pastoral leadership are a testament to your unwavering faith and dedication. Your journey has not only shaped your congregation but has also left an indelible mark on the wider community. We are particularly grateful for your foresight as a founding member of Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. Your early vision helped create a vital space for collaboration and growth that continues to benefit us all today.

We celebrate the wisdom, grace, and strength you have shared with so many over the years. May this anniversary be a time of joyful reflection and a precursor to many more years of impactful service.

With deepest respect and gratitude,

The Regal Sisters of Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.
Nathalie C. Lilavois, Ed. D.
Executive Board President
Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.

~ We Are the Shoulders of Today for Tomorrow's Future ~
www.malikmelodies.org

Congratulations To Chionesu Bakari

Mr. Horace Moore
Program Founder and CEO
Chionesu Bakari Program For Young Men
245 New Lots Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207



RE: Celebrating 20 Years of Impactful Service: Chionesu Bakari Program For Young Men

Dear Brother Horace Moore,

On behalf of the Executive Board and the entire sisterhood of Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc., I am honored to extend our warmest congratulations to you and the Chionesu Bakari Program For Young Men on celebrating 20 years of dedicated service.

For two decades, Chionesu Bakari Program For Young Men has stood as a powerful beacon of mentorship, leadership, and empowerment. Your unwavering commitment to uplifting young men and fostering positive change in our communities is truly commendable. As your sisters, we are immensely proud to witness the profound legacy you continue to build through Chionesu Bakari Program For Young Men and Malik Fraternity, Inc.

We deeply value the shared bonds between our organizations and look forward to many more years of collaboration, mutual support, and community transformation. Thank you for your exemplary leadership and your continuous dedication to the upliftment of our communities.

Sincerely,

Nathalie C. Lilavois, Ed. D.
Executive Board President
Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.



Horace Moore
Program Founder & CEO

<https://youngblackmanonline.org/>

~ We Are the Shoulders of Today for Tomorrow's Future ~

www.malikmelodies.org

Congratulations MMSI Angela Pauling Scholars!!

MMSI Is Excited to Announce The Recipients of Our 14th Annual Scholarship

On May 16th, MMSI held our 14th Annual MMSI Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship interviews. The Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship honors the enduring legacy of our beloved sister, Angela Pauling. Through this award Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. seeks to support trailblazing students who mirror her passion for elevating their communities. We had an outstanding pool of candidates once again this year, and these fantastic four recipients were highly exceptional.

Our 2026 Angela Pauling Scholars are: Mr. Alan Bautista Delacruz, Ms. Kayleigh Diaz, Ms. Abbygael Morrison, and Ms. Nusaiba Neesa.

We know they will continue to make valuable contributions to their fields of study, and we wish our Scholars a brilliant and successful future.

To learn more about our Angela Pauling Scholars visit:

<https://www.malikmelodies.org/angela-pauling-memorial-scholarship>.



**Alan Bautista
Delacruz**



Kayleigh Diaz



Abbygael Morrison



Nusaiba Neesa

**The Scholarship Committee
Members:
Kim Bright, Sharon Harleston,
Lisa Kirkland and Vicki Palmer.
Pictured are the 2026 APM
Scholarship Interview Panelists:
Lisa, Kim, Vicki & Sharon**



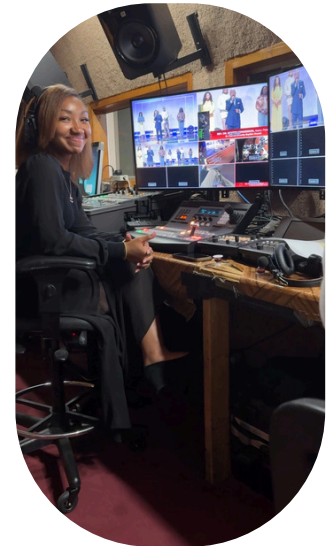
We thank everyone for your contributions and investment in our Scholars' success!

Update MMSI Angela Pauling Past Scholarship Recipients



I have officially completed my freshman year at Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge, majoring in Film & Television BFA and minoring in Dance. Attending a university in the south was somewhat of a culture shock. However, although seeing how I've adapted and embraced the new local culture, cuisine, and college lifestyle with its demands, I am declaring success! Examples of this include, but are not limited to: attending a university over 1300 miles away, experiencing my first LSU football game, engaging in parties (responsibly), making memories with my childhood best friend, who also attends LSU, and ending the last semester on the Dean's List with a GPA of 3.8. Challenges of young adulthood included: learning about managing money, finding the balance between leisure activities, taking care of residential and personal needs, academic responsibilities, and, admittedly, some unintentional drama. The overall lessons this year have taught me to take the good with the bad and have grown grateful to have accomplished such milestones and overcome obstacles in my family history. Overall, I've learned how resilient I am.

Towards the end of my freshman year, I began applying to several internship programs and opportunities to enhance my knowledge within the world of film and its art form, as well as general work opportunities. I've applied to the Disney College Program and NYC's Ladders 4 Leaders Internship Program, and was accepted into both. However, due to my consistent present level of commitment to my college education, I have chosen to proceed with the NYC Ladders 4 Leaders Internship Program, which has assisted me in finding an internship for Summer 2026 with Reel Works Production company, in which I will be working as a Producer's Assistant, including volunteer opportunities I will participate in this summer.



The Angela Pauling Scholarship has also been essential in helping me reach this point in my college career by funding my purchase of a new laptop computer. It has allowed me to deeply study the art of editing while creating my first film ever. However, this scholarship has not been my only support, but the guidance, prayers, words of encouragement via text messages, emails, DMs from The Grace's Newsletter committee, and the love and support from Malik Melodies Sisterhood Inc. have remained continuous! Sisterhood, village, and love surround me from this Board, and I believe that this has helped carry me this far.

Sincerely,
Raven Savannah Taylor

Update MMSI Angela Pauling past Scholarship Recipients



I graduated from Iona University with a BBA in Marketing in just three years cum laude, and in the honors program. I had so much fun being on the Iona Goldline Dance Team and having the opportunity to lead as captain in my senior year. I was also a part of and led various clubs that helped me cultivate meaningful friendships and build useful skills.

I plan to find a full-time job in the marketing field and go back to go to grad school to deepen my concentration and learn to better apply my skills. I also hope to be able to start teaching dance and exploring new ways to use my talents.

The scholarship helped me to easily adjust to all the new and unexpected things college brought. Whether it was uncalculated traveling costs, meals needed, or the funding for personal needs, I was able to get adjusted in my freshman year and learn to prepare for the years to come. I am very grateful for it!

Best,
Brittania Brown

A MESSAGE FROM MMSI ANGELA PAULING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE TO ALL OF OUR SCHOLARS

Whether you are stepping onto a college campus for the first time, continuing your studies, or preparing to cross the graduation stage and launch your career, Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. is incredibly proud of you!

As you dive into these exciting future endeavors, remember that the dedication that earned you your scholarship will continue to guide you forward. You have a bright path ahead, and we know you will make a meaningful impact in your next chapter.

In Honor of Women

Gracious Melody Vanessa Miller



The Conversation Before the Conversation: Why How You Show Up Changes Everything by Vanessa Miller

Most conversations don't break down because of what's said. They break down because of how we show up before a single word is spoken. As entrepreneurs, creators, and leaders in our own right, we're constantly navigating conversations that matter—setting boundaries, managing expectations, negotiating value, and making decisions that impact our time, money, and energy. Here's what often gets overlooked: By the time we open our mouths, we've already decided something internally. We've made assumptions. We've judged the situation. We've predicted the outcome.

And all of that shows up—in our tone, our body language, and the words we choose. Think about a moment when a client questioned your price, or someone didn't meet your expectations. Before you responded, something likely ran through your mind: *They don't value me. This always happens. I need to fix this quickly.* That internal reaction shapes the conversation more than the words themselves. This is where SHIFTEd Conversations™ begins.

It starts with a simple but powerful question: **Am I thinking clearly, or reacting quickly?** That question creates a *choice point*—a moment where you can pause and decide how you want to show up instead of defaulting to habit. In my work, I use a framework called **SHIFT**:

- **Set Intention** – What outcome actually matters here?
- **Hear Their Truth** – What's really being said, beyond the surface?
- **Identify the Issue** – What's the real challenge, not just the visible tension?
- **Find Alignment** – Where is there common ground or shared interest?
- **Take Action** – What's the next clear, accountable step?

This isn't about having the “perfect words.” It's about creating the conditions for a better conversation. Because when you slow down your thinking, you listen differently, respond with more clarity, and make stronger decisions. In spaces like ours—where collaboration, visibility, and growth matter—how we show up in conversations shapes what becomes possible.

So the next time you find yourself in a moment that matters, pause and ask: **Am I thinking clearly... or reacting quickly?** Because how you answer that question will shape not just the conversation— but the outcome that follows.

Vanessa Miller is the Owner and Founder of Prosperity Speaks, LLC and a Human-Centered Leadership Facilitator. She is the creator of SHIFTEd Conversations™, a framework designed to help leaders communicate clearly and make sound decisions under pressure.

vanessa@prosperity-speaks.com
www.prosperity-speaks.com

OUR HISTORY WILL NOT BE ERASED

NOTABLE, HISTORICALLY UNDERRECOGNIZED BLACK DESIGNERS:

- Ann Cole Lowe (1898–1981): A talented couturier, she designed Jacqueline Bouvier's wedding dress for her 1953 marriage to John F. Kennedy, though she was not publicly credited at the time. She was the first African American to become a noted fashion designer, despite facing racism throughout her career.
- Zelda Wynn Valdes (1905–2001): Opened "Chez Zelda" in 1948, the first Black-owned boutique in Manhattan on Broadway. She designed for icons like Ella Fitzgerald, Josephine Baker, and Mae West, and designed the original Playboy bunny suit.
- Jay Jaxon (1940s–2006): A pioneering American designer who worked in Paris for prestigious couture houses like Yves Saint Laurent and Christian Dior before launching his own label.
- Stephen Burrows (b. 1943): A dazzling 1970s talent known for his vibrant, color-blocked jersey dresses with "lettuce hems." He was one of the first Black designers to achieve international fame, yet often omitted in earlier fashion histories.
- Willi Smith (1948–1987): Often considered the most successful Black fashion designer in history, Smith pioneered "street couture" and designed the clothes for the wedding of Mary Jane Watson and Peter Parker in Marvel comics.
- Ruby Bailey (1906–1989): A contemporary of Valdes, she was a Harlem-based designer known for her work in textiles, print, and custom clothing.
- Patrick Kelly (1954–1990): The first American and Black designer to be admitted into the prestigious Chambre Syndicale du Prêt-à-Porter in Paris.
- Oluwole Olumuyiwa, John Owusu-Addo, & Demas Nwoko: 20th-century West African architects who proved the value of using local customs, resources, and materials.

TOP LATIN AMERICAN FASHION DESIGNERS

- Óscar de la Renta (Dominican Republic)- Without a doubt, the first name that comes to mind, the designer born in Santo Domingo, is one of the most influential fashion designers in history. He became famous in the 1960s for dressing First Lady Jackie Kennedy and began with a great legacy in history, his name is not only known in Latin America, the name of Oscar de la Renta means elegance, history and culture.

OUR HISTORY WILL NOT BE ERASED

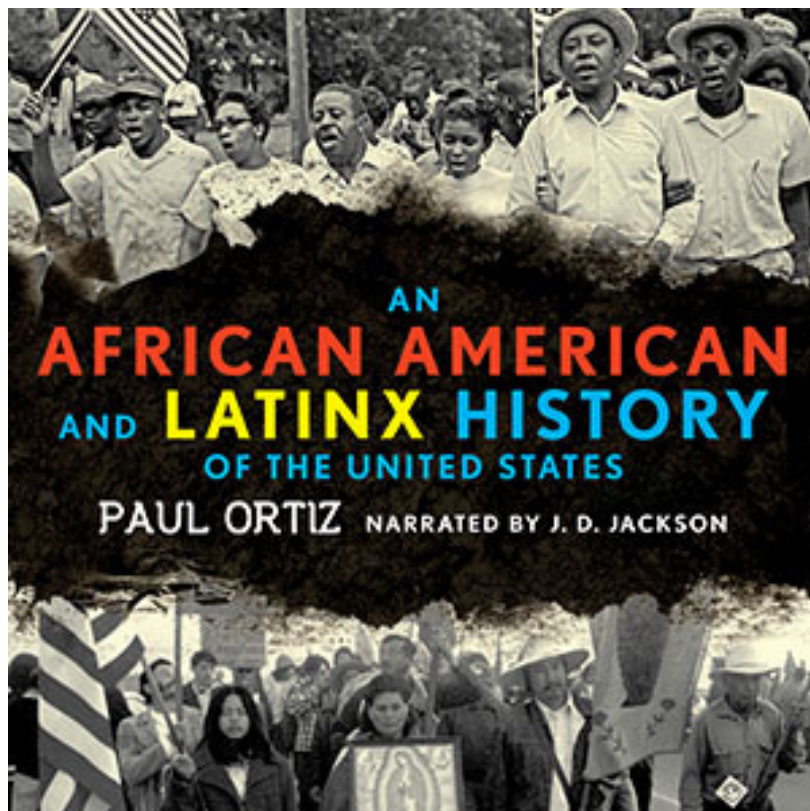
- **Isabel Toledo (Cuba).** Isabel Toledo is undoubtedly one of the greatest designers in the history of Latin fashion, obsessed with pattern structures, and Toledo forms described her work as "mathematical romantics". Isabel Toledo had an education in one of the most prestigious fashion schools in the world, at the Fashion Institute of Technology. In 2005 she received the National Design Award, had a successful career and was acclaimed by top fashion critics. In 2008 she dressed Michelle Obama for President Barack Obama's inauguration.
- **Carolina Herrera (Venezuela).** Talking about Latin fashion without the name Carolina Herrera would not make sense. Although part of her career and successes were indeed achieved outside her country, the name Carolina Herrera represents Latin American fashion. Her elegant and timeless style led her to position her brand as one of the best in Latin America, like Oscar de la Renta, Carolina Herrera designed dresses for the First Lady, Jackie Kennedy.
- **Narciso Rodriguez is a designer of Cuban origin,** known in the fashion world for its purist aesthetics, After studying fashion design at the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York, he worked with Donna Karan at Anne Klein and later Calvin Klein. In October 1997, Narciso Rodriguez began his own firm. And in 1998, he presented his first collection at Milan Fashion Week. Years later, he was in charge of the creative direction of the Loewe brand. He is one of the most important designers and one of the representatives of minimalist fashion. He designed her friend Carolyn Bessette's wedding dress for her marriage to John F. Kennedy Jr.
- **Miguel Mesa Posada (Colombia).** While we have talked about classic and historical designers, some names deserve to be mentioned in this list. One of them is that the designer Miguel Mesa Posada known as "the fashion anthropologist" himself describes his work as an intense search for answers on Latin American interpretations of truth/wealth/beauty through apparel experimentation. Historical fiction and facts are a basis for recreating a conversation between the present and the past. Miguel is mainly inspired by his native Colombia, field life, and the historical value of archaeology.
- **Carla Fernandez (México).** With an extraordinary vision, focused on Mexican origin and cultural wealth, Carla Fernández is one of the designers who could not stay off this list. A sustainable fashion brand characterized by working together with Mexican artisans and indigenous communities. Its design is based on traditional geometric shapes, organic materials, and processing techniques from all over the country. In 2008, during London Fashion Week, she was named "young fashion entrepreneur". Carla not only represents an avant-garde style of Mexican fashion but is the spokesperson for a culture, a nation, and all those artisans who color her creations.

OUR HISTORY WILL NOT BE ERASED

- **Sebastian del Real Ossa (Chile).** Perhaps the designer with the fewest reflectors of this list, a designer completely "unknown" to many, but with one of the freshest and most innovative proposals in Latin American fashion. Born in Santiago de Chile and raised in a loving family, Sebastian began his love of fashion thanks to his mother, whom he has defined on different occasions as his greatest inspiration. Sebastian del Real Ossa started with his brand in 2005, intending to create refined women's costumes for exclusive clients, one of the most interesting features of the brand is that his collections continue to be made in the workshop of his house and he himself has mentioned that his mother is part of the creative process.



- **Colonial Legacies: The Met Museum and the Absence of Latinx Designers in Fashion Archives**
<https://www.latinxproject.nyu.edu/intervenxions/the-absence-of-latinx-designers-in-fashion-archives>
- **Latin America History Books**
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/b/latin-america-history/>



MMSI Chip & Sip Series

APRIL 24 7:30 PM (ET) - MMSI'S CHIP & SIP VIRTUAL FILM SERIES CONTINUED WITH "MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE - The Story of Puerto Rican studies in Brooklyn College"

"Making The Impossible Possible - The Story of Puerto Rican studies in Brooklyn College" is a documentary film by Tami Gold and Pamela Sporn that chronicles the student-led fight for Puerto Rican Studies at Brooklyn College, CUNY in the late 1960s. The film highlights alliances between Black, Puerto Rican, and White students, featuring archival footage and voices of activists.

During the evening, we viewed short videos from the documentary series showing how students realized their power to make the impossible possible and heard from Vanessa Santiago, a professor at Brooklyn College.



MAY 29, 7:30 PM (ET) - MMSI'S CHIP & SIP VIRTUAL DISCUSSION SERIES "AI 101: FROM ZERO TO WHOA!"

MMSI had an informative and engaging introduction on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Cesar Ventura Tapia, AI Coach, Researcher and Innovator.

- What is it?
- How do I navigate using AI?
- How do I protect myself while using AI?
- What's an AI Agent, and which is the best one to use??

To answers to these questions AND MORE visit MMSI's website to view the recording.

The group discussions were moderated by Lisa Rodriguez and Anita Wallace.
A special thank you to Kim Bright for the technical support!
MMSI Executive Board Member



SPOTLIGHT ACTIVITIES

Congratulations!

Melody Sister Naala Royale, owner of Dunns River Lounge located in Rockville Centre, NY — Best Caribbean Food on Long Island at the Long Island Choice Awards
Congratulations on 22 years of service!

Melody Sister Mia Grant's daughter Kendall graduation from Rider University located in Lawrence Township, NJ

Melody Sister Tracey Henry Burton on her retirement - 35 years of service!

Melody Sister Keisha Rivers on winning Board of Education Election North Babylon School District!

Melody Sister Denene Milner's daughter Mari Chiles, MD., graduated from Morehouse School of Medicine located in Atlanta, Georgia

Melody Sister Brenda Allen's son Mercer Hedgeman IV, graduated with BS in Plant Science from Rutgers University located in New Jersey

Melody Sister Sasha Powell on earning a Masters Degree and a Certificate in Education from Russell Sage College located in Troy, NY!

To the Kings of
MALIK Fraternity, Inc.

Happy Founder's Day!
Congratulations
on your
49th Anniversary!

From the Queens of
Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.

**MALIK
MELODIES**
SISTERHOOD, INC.

LEADERSHIP.
EMPOWERMENT.
COLLABORATION.
FAITH.

www.malikmelodies.org

We Are the Shoulders of Today
for Tomorrow's Future

Cultural Enrichment & Education
Civic & Social Responsibility



JAMAICA CENTER FOR



ARTS AND LEARNING

**DOWNTOWN JAMAICA
RIDDIM & JAZZ FESTIVAL
JULY EVENTS - PLEASE VISIT
[HTTPS://JCAL.ORG/EVENTS-TICKETS](https://jcal.org/events-tickets)**



**Congrats to MMSI Student
Ambassador Alumnus
Sophia Connellan on
graduating from the
University at Buffalo!!**

SPOTLIGHT ACTIVITIES

Join MALIK Fraternity NYC Shabazz on Saturday, July 25th for the NYC Shabazz BBQ

Food and beverages for event will be provided - hamburgers, hotdogs, BBQ chicken, antipasto salad, rice n peas, sodas, water, etc.

The Frat request guests to donate \$25. A link will be provided shortly.

The location is Springfield Park in Jamaica, Queens (Springfield Blvd and 147th Ave) near JFK Airport.

Guests arriving at that intersection will notice the NYC Shabazz banner but officially it's the Purple section.

The BBQ starts at noon, ends at 7pm. The rain date is Sunday, July 26.



NYC
Shabazz
BBQ

Come join us for a fun BBQ filled with great food, laughter, and camaraderie!

SPRINGFIELD PARK
JAMAICA, NY
SPRINGFIELD BLVD & 147TH AVE
JUL. 25. 2026
12 NOON

Event Coordinator:
Ashton Richardson
516-884-5611



MALIK Fraternity Inc.
DMV
SHABAZZ KINGDOM

Family
BBQ *Rain or Shine!*

September 19, 2026 | 12PM EST
Allen Pond Park | 3330 Northview Drive
Bowie, MD 20716
East Pavillion
\$30 Person | \$50 Family

Payment and More:


Order tickets through:
PayPal: dvmalik77@gmail.com
Zelle: 301-523-7256
Email dvmalik77@gmail.com for more info.

Food, Drinks, Games and more included

Join the DMV Shabazz Kingdom for their Annual Family BBQ on Sept 19, 2026

Allen Pond Park - East Pavillion
Bowie Maryland 20176

\$30 Person / \$50 Family via Zelle or PayPal to dvmalik77@gmail.com

Email: dvmalik77@gmail.com for more info

Recommended Hotel:

Townplace Suites by Marriott
(301) 262-8045
3700 Town Center Blvd, Bowie, MD 20716
Room Rate Block Expires 8/17/2026

To complete your reservation over the phone, please call the 301-262-8045 and mention the "DMV MALIK ROOM BLOCK", Verbal Rate Code:

Studio 1 Queen Bed and a full-size sofa bed: "DMVM"

For online reservations, visit www.marriott.com/bwibm. Under the Special Rate drop-down, select Group Code, and type in your preferred rate code

Check in: 09/17/2026 Check Out: 09/19/2026

DMVDMVM - \$130.00 + 13% tax Studio, 1 Queen Size bed and a full-size sofa bed.

SPOTLIGHT ACTIVITIES



20

CHIONESU BAKARI
Guiding Light of Nobel Promise

20 YEARS OF LIGHT. 20 YEARS OF LEGACY.

BLACK TIE AFFAIR
Friday, July 10, 2026 6:00PM
Da Mikele illagiò Queens, NY

THE EXPERIENCE

Adults	\$200
Young Men / Young People	\$175
Tables	\$1,800

GALA TICKETS AND INFORMATION
WWW.YOUNGBLACKMANONLINE.ORG/CB20

BROTHERHOOD ♦ MENTORSHIP ♦ EXPOSURE ♦ LEGACY

The light still shines. The promise still lives.

Chionesu Bakari, A Swahili phrase meaning “Guiding Light of Noble Promise”, is engaged in the ministry of saving and developing young black males by reclaiming, renaming, renewing and reconditioning their minds. Chionesu Bakari strives to motivate young black male children to think critically and prepare their minds and the minds of their respective parents/guardians for the men they will grow to become.

<https://www.youngblackmenonline.org/cb20>

The Graces

The Official Newsletter of the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.



Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship

**\$20/27 Scholarship
Fundraising Campaign**

We Need Your Help
To Ensure Bright Young Minds
Can Fulfill Their Dreams Of
Attending College.

Please Support
Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.
15th Annual Angela Pauling
Memorial Scholarship



DONATE ON-LINE with [PayPal](#), [Credit or Debit Card](#) at

<https://www.malikmelodies.org> OR

Via Zelle at: MalikMelodies@gmail.com

Check: Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. - P.O. Box 92944, Wash., DC 20090

WE ARE THE
SHOULDERS OF TODAY
FOR TOMORROW'S
FUTURE!

MALIK MELODIES
SISTERHOOD, INC.



MMSI



MMSI MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Executive Board – 2nd Tuesday of every month
at 8:00 pm
Professional Branch – 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 pm
The Graces Newsletter Staff – Last Wednesday
at 8:30 pm

The Graces Staff

**Kim J. Bright
Sharon Harleston
Lisa Rodriguez
Anita Wallace**

Executive Board

**Kim J. Bright, Co-Founder
Nathalie Lilavois, President
Sharon Harleston, Vice President
Mary Richardson, Parliamentarian
Lisa Rodriguez
Anita Wallace**

Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.

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