

The Graces

The Official Newsletter of the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.



PB President Message

Greetings Regal Sisters,

March is notable for the arrival of Spring, but more importantly it is also time to celebrate Women's History Month.

I encourage the Wonderful, Ordinary, Motivating, Empowering, Nurturers of Malik Melodies Sisterhood Inc., to celebrate the Queen in You. Celebrate the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who established this organization; the rebirth of this organization and the continuous commitment and devotion to further the advancement of MMSI from our Sisters of the Executive Board, Professional Branch Cabinet and Collegiate Branch Cabinet.

REMINISCE

upon the interesting factors regarding MMSI that attracted you

REFLECT

upon your journey and the continued Sisterly bond
you share with one another

RENEW

your spirits by becoming involved with the progression of MMSI

We encourage Melodies to continue their involvement with MMSI's Civic & Social Responsibility programs. We would love to hear your ideas and invite you to participate in our monthly Membership Meeting; beginning in April, Membership Meetings will be held the 1st Thursday every other month at 7:30pm; alternate months the meetings will be the 1st Saturday at 11:00am (EST). I look forward to working with you all!!!

The Queen in Me Salutes the Queen in You~

GM Sharon Harleston, President
MMSI Professional Branch



March/April 2014

In This Issue

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| PB President Message | Pg. 1 |
| Melodies on the Move | Pg. 2 - 3 |
| In Honor of Women | Pg. 4 |
| Announcements | Pg. 6 |

The Graces Staff

Juceliz Batista
Kim J. Bright
Christine Delgado
AnnMarie Ledley, DO FACOG
Nathalie Lilavois, ED.d
Lisa Rodriguez
Lorraine Sánchez

Executive Board

Kim J. Bright, Co-Founder
Sherlyn L. Ortiz, President
Nathalie Lilavois, ED.d, Vice President
Lisa Kirkland-Sutherland
Mary Richardson
Lisa Rodriguez
Lisa Stephney-Whittington, ED.d

Malik Melodies Sisterhood Inc.

P.O. Box 260430,
Bellerose, NY 11426

P.O. Box 92944,
Washington, DC 20090

malikmelodies@gmail.com
www.malikmelodies.org

Please send comments or ideas for
articles for future newsletters to
TheGraces@gmail.com

Melodies on the Move

Gracious Melody Marjorie Jean-Pierre



I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing Gracious Melody Marjorie Jean-Pierre in her office at the United States Energy Association in Washington, DC on January 21, 2013. This date held historical significance. It was President Obama's Inauguration of his second Presidential term and the Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Being in Washington, DC on the parade route along Pennsylvania Ave was the perfect backdrop befitting of this Queen.

Marjorie or "JP", as we affectionately call her, is the Deputy Program Manager at the United States Energy Association (USEA). This non-profit association is made up of a diverse membership of government agencies, other associations, energy industry, instructors, and consulting agencies. It basically includes anyone who has a desire to learn more about the energy industry. The USEA's main goal is to develop capacity building activities such as conferences, workshops, and seminars; however their main responsibility is to serve as the US Member Committee of the World Energy Council.

JP manages the Energy Utility Partnership Program which focuses on developing energy partnerships in the regions of Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia. After serving four years in the U.S. Army, two of which were in Germany, Marjorie worked at several consulting firms managing government contracts dealing with the development of energy projects. She remained a reserve member of the U.S. Army for an additional four years. Marjorie has travelled to more than 45 countries planning, developing, and executing conferences, workshops, and executive exchanges for senior-level energy representatives on key energy issues. She managed the U.S. – China Natural Gas Training Program by developing courses on natural gas topics relevant to both China and the U.S. Prior to her employment with the U.S. Energy Association, she was a Research Associate at JRH Associates and Management Assistant with T. Head & Company.

In her own words...

"Malik Melodies is wonderful in grooming women to be the strong, capable women. I think what Malik Melodies did for me was to bring out the things that I didn't even know I had within myself..."

"They always teach you that you are a Queen. Never forget that!!! Being a Queen, there are certain things that are required of you."

"Malik Melodies gives you the strength to use all your capabilities... to use all the possibilities that you can, not only in the workforce, but in your personal life... so Malik Melodies has done that for me; it strengthened me."

"It has given me the confidence that I think I always knew I had, but maybe didn't always use."

"It's given me a wonderful organization of sisters."



Marjorie Jean Pierre was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She and her brother lived with their aunt in Haiti for a year before joining their parents stateside when Marjorie was two and a half years old. Marjorie grew up in a small town on the Connecticut River. Marjorie recalls, *“It was a strange upbringing to be Haitian and black growing up in a predominately white town. I had to straddle two worlds in which I was Haitian at home, with my parents speaking Creole, but insisting that my brother and I only speak English so that we could learn faster and, at the same time, trying to be ‘American’ at school.”* While at school, Marjorie was actively involved in Future Business Leaders of America, sports, and student government



Gracious Melody Marjorie Jean-Pierre hails from the Genesis Chapter, C.W. Post, Long Island University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. She has been a member of MMSI since 1982 and was actively involved at C.W. Post serving as President of the Genesis Chapter in 1984-85. She recalls her time on Scale with Scale Sisters: Saundra Nickens, Nina Dill, Karen Jones, Lori Frasier, and Marjorie Gardner, *“I remember sitting up at 2 or 3 o’clock in the morning sewing our uniforms and they said we came out looking like orange and black maids—*

we made everything – shirts to the skirt with black cummerbunds...”

Having lost her mother at the age of twelve, Marjorie shares that in her formative years, when she really needed a mother, she didn’t have that in her life. She also shares, *“I never really had a sister; I’ve always longed for a sister...so I have this wonderful group of women where I have these extended sisters. I just love the camaraderie.”* She does have an older brother who served 26 years in the Air Force and lives with this family in North Dakota.

Marjorie reflects as a Melody:

*“I hope that I show, through example, what it is to be a strong individual, a caring woman, and I hope, through that, they see the **Melody** in me.”*

We most certainly do celebrate the Melody in you.



Nathalie Lilavois, ED.d

MMSI Artist Networking & Mentor Initiative

P.O. Box 260430, Bellerose, NY, 11426 • P.O. Box 92944, Washington, DC 20090

In Honor of Women



Paula Whaley
Oneeki
Design
Studio



Paula Whaley, one of MMSI's Artist Mentors is originally from Harlem, New York, was the 9th child of Berdis and David Baldwin and now currently resides in Baltimore, Maryland. She is a graduate of New York City Fashion Institute and went on to study at the Cadres Couture in Paris, France. She has adopted the professional name "Oneeki" which is a feminine Yoruba name meaning "treat her tenderly for me". Her artwork seems to ask that of the viewer. Beginning with displaying her creativity with clothing design, jewelry, Oneeki has progressed to creating "soft sculptures" figures using metal and fabric to create forms hauntingly reminiscent of the Maasai and Fulani of Africa.

Ms. Whaley's evolution as an artist is evident in her new found love of creating dolls. This new found creative expression was born out of the pain of losing her beloved elder brother, James Baldwin, highly acclaimed author and playwright. In Ms. Whaley's words, "*In considering the Art of Healing, honesty can be both painful and therapeutic. At this particular time and space, these doll sculptures reflect intense personal moments and memories. I am always attempting to celebrate the moment. One can become extremely introverted; however, it is often necessary to enter into your world – creatively – in order to be productive, alive and free.*"

To see Paula Whaley's work visit her website listed below:

Contact information:

Ms. Paula Whaley
Oneeki Design Studio
2103 N. Charles Street,
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone – 410.962.8592
E-mail – Oneeki@aol.com
Website: <http://www.oneekidesign.com/>



To learn more about Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. and how you can participate with the Artist Networking & Mentor Initiative visit www.malikmelodies.org.



Kim J. Bright

MALIK MELODIES
SISTERHOOD, INC.

LEADERSHIP.
EMPOWERMENT.
COLLABORATION.
FAITH.

We Are the Shoulders of Today
for Tomorrow's Future

Cultural Enrichment & Education
Civic & Social Responsibility


www.malikmelodies.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS



In Honor of Our ANCESTORS...

*We send our love, condolences & prayers to:
Melody Dorothy Edwards and MALIK David Edwards
Mother Willie Mae Edwards made her transition into
Ancestry on April 02, 2014.
May her spirit be at perfect peace.*

Save the Date!

MMSI NYC Annual Aids Walk – May 18, 2014

Malik Melodies as we participate in our annual support against HIV/AIDS. Our team name is “Malik Melodies”. If you cannot join us on that day, please consider donating to our team. Our goal this year is to raise \$3,000. To register ONLINE: <http://www.aidswalk.net/newyork> and click “Register” and “Join a Team”, then select our team name from the drop-down menu. By PHONE: Call the AIDS Walk office at 212.807.WALK (9255), be sure to provide our team name “Malik Melodies” when registering. For more information on where to meet and day-of-the-walk activities contact President Ortiz at sherlynortiz@gmail.com.



Corrections

We apologize for our typos within our January/February 2014 Issue:



- ❖ **Page 1 ~ Sisters Ashley McMikle and Trina Franklin are hugging!**
- ❖ **Page 2 ~ Misspelling of Brookhaven Long Island Town Council Member Valerie Cartright's last name.**