

# The Graces

The Official Newsletter of the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.



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## The Graces Newsletter Staff Message

Happy Summer

Wow, is it summer already? In many ways it feels like the year just got started.

This past spring, the sisters and brothers of the Malik Family are celebrating major accomplishments as you will see in this issue.

As we approach the summer season, we encourage you to indulge in self care and embrace a healthy lifestyle .

We wish you an enjoyable and fulfilling summer with fun and relaxing moments, as well as exciting adventures while creating new memories with your family and friends.

Celebrate yourself, stay safe, hydrate and use that sunscreen! Happy Summer!

Best Wishes Queens & Kings!  
The Graces Newsletter Staff

# MMSI Chip & Sip Film & Book Series Presents

## “WINDOW FISHING”

Author: DK Dyson and Illustrator: Rudy Gutierrez

On April 26, 2024, we hosted our first book discussion as part of the Chip & Sip series which featuring the book, “Window Fishing”.

We’ve expanded this event beyond films to the “Chip & Sip Film & Book Series”. We had a great interactive discussion with the author, DK Dyson and her husband Rudy Gutierrez who is the illustrator.

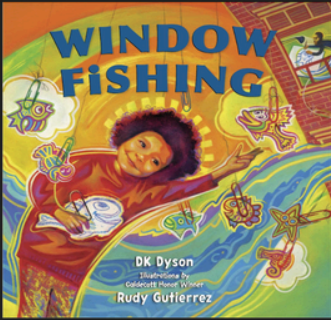
The discussion addressed the importance and impact of art and children’s books, as well as its impact and influence on adults.

**MALIK MELODIES SISTERHOOD, INC.**  
PRESENTS


*Chip & Sip Film & Book Series*


**WINDOW FISHING**


An author & illustrator's discussion addressing the importance & impact of art & children's books.




DK Dyson  
Illustrations by  
Rudy Gutierrez

 DK Dyson  
Author

 Rudy Gutierrez  
Illustrator

 Lisa Rodriguez  
Moderator

 Anita Wallace  
Co-Moderator

**Free!** **FRI. APRIL 26, 2024**  
**7:30 PM (ET)**

Register At:  
<https://MMSI-Chip-and-Sip.eventbrite.com>

*Chip & Sip  
Film & Book  
Series*

PRESENTED BY  
MALIK MELODIES SISTERHOOD, INC.



# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our sister **Dr. Nathalie Lilavois** on receiving the “**Community Champion Award**” on June 7, 2024 at the Art League of Long Island in Dix Hills. This is an annual award hosted by “Share Inform Enlighten”.

The Community Champion Award celebrates Nathalie’s accomplishments that provide education & empowerment through her career as an educator, author, producer of TedX Deer Park & her company Zahara Crown, Inc.

You make us proud!! For more information, please check out Nathalie’s website: <http://www.zaharacrown.com>



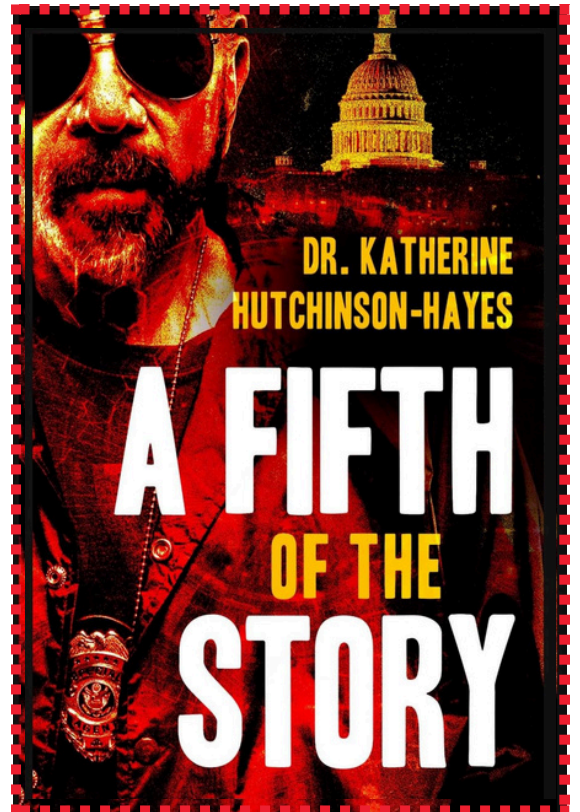
# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations sister **Dr. Katherine Hutchinson-Hayes** on her latest book. Katherine hails from Brooklyn, NY. She earned her BA & MA in Elementary Education from Adelphi as well as her PhD in Education & Supervision from Arizona State University. Katherine published her first book in 2016, “God’s Little Black Dress for Women: How to Put on the Full Armor of God Without Losing Your Femininity”. In 2023 Katherine published “Focus: 45 Devotionals to Keep Jesus In The Picture (Dressing in God’s Love Book 1)”. This book is a compilation of devotionals & earned her a finalist spot from the Selah Awards for Christian Devotionals.

“**A Fifth of the Story**” is Katherine’s latest book published this year. The book is a thriller about a CIA agent and an attack on U.S. soil. You can find all of Katherine’s books on Amazon.

In addition to her books, Katherine is also a guest speaker, she is a production editor for Embolden Media Group, has a podcast “Murder, Mystery & Mayhem”, and earned a Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference award for her blog, “Dressing in God’s Love”.

For more information, please visit Katherine’s website: [www.drkatherinehayes.com](http://www.drkatherinehayes.com)



# CONGRATULATIONS

Gracious Melody and Stony Brook University alumnus, **Naala Royale-Holder** is originally from the island of Jamaica, West Indies. Naala is the proud owner of **Dunns River Lounge**, a Jamaican restaurant located in Rockville Center, NY.

On June 4th Dunns River celebrated 20 years in business!! Dunns River has been recognized as a prominent NY Caribbean restaurant by Channel 12 News and Newsday.

In honor of the 20th anniversary, the restaurant held a cocktail reception with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by local community leaders. Deputy Mayor Kathy Baxley applauded Dunns River Lounge as a “true cornerstone of Rockville Center”.

Naala & her staff have excellent customer service & truly live by their motto “The only thing we love more than good food and drinks is YOU”.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.dunnsriverny.com>

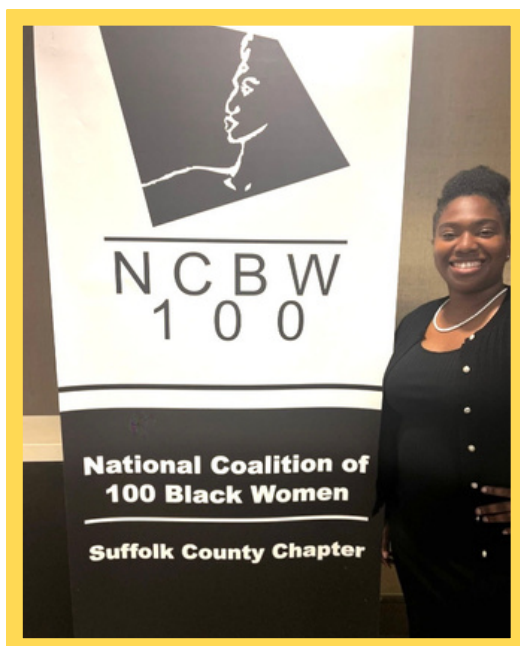


# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to GM, **Jessica Denis** on her 10th year as a business owner with her company “**Travel By Design**”. Her company provides amazing trips across the globe as well as all the details for wedding planning. Jessica’s expertise stems from her vast travel excursions to over 30 countries. She specializes in group travel packages, family reunions, corporate events, destination weddings and more.

Jessica has earned The AIC Hotel Group Showstopper Award three years in a row! The AIC Showstopper Award is given annually to the top selling travel advisors in the United States and Canada.

For more information or to book a trip, please visit Jessica’s website:  
<https://www.travelbydesignny.com>



Congratulations to  
**Melody Kendra Rivers!**

She was inducted into the Suffolk County Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women on Sunday, June 2, 2024.

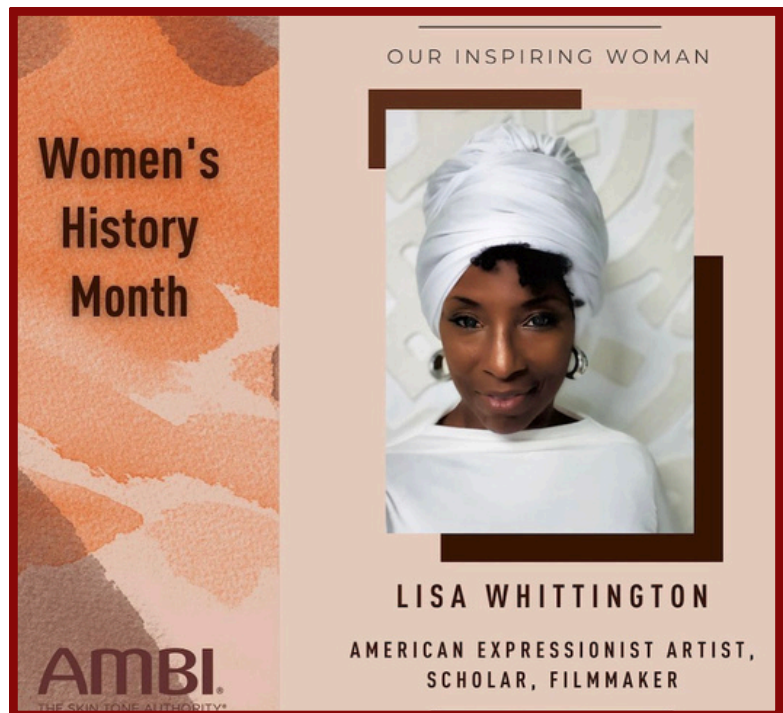


# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Gracious Melody, Dr. Lisa Love Whittington. Lisa was the Women's History Month first place winner for Ambi Skincare's "Inspiring Woman" contest. She was honored for her beautiful story telling art, her passion for teaching art, being an inspiration in public schools and urban communities, as well as her achievements earning her Masters and Doctorate degrees.

Additional congratulations are in order for Lisa who is officially retired after 34 years of serving children and the community as an art educator.

To learn more about this amazing Melody Sister please visit <http://www.lisalovewhittington.com>



# CONGRATULATIONS

Malik Brother, **Jabir Sahamu** graduated from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He earned two degrees: **Doctor of Medicine (MD)** and **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**. He will pursue neurosurgery at NYU Langone Health.



Congratulations to Malik Brother, **Giancarlo Llaverias** who is now the **Executive Chef at Heritage Food and Drink** in Wappingers Falls, NY. He is a co-founder of the Hudson Valley Young Black and Latino Professionals and a former Dutchess County Legislator.



# CONGRATULATIONS



On May 31, 2024 Malik Brother, **Tabari Z. Bomani** received the distinct honor of having a library named after him. It's called the "**Tabari Z. Bomani Equity Library**". He is the illustrious founding Principal Emeritus Tabari Z. Bomani of the Nelson Mandela School for Social Justice, located in Brooklyn, NY.

Through the library, Tabari's legacy for education and learning lives on.



Congratulations to Malik Brother, **Bruce Jackson**. He is the Associate General Counsel and Managing Director of Strategic Partners at Microsoft. Bruce delivered the 2024 commencement address to the graduates of the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University! He also received an **honorary doctorate degree from Hofstra University**.

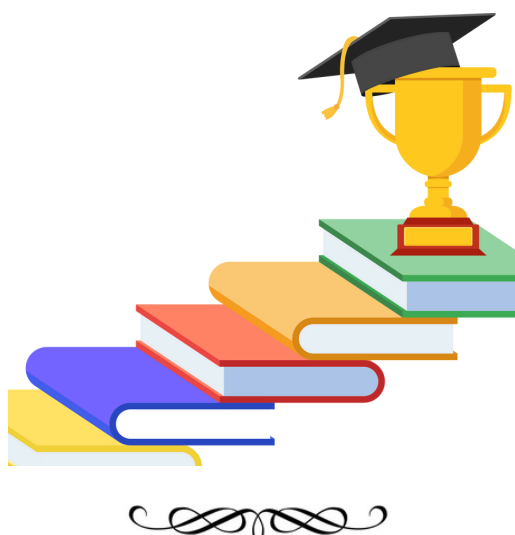


# 2024 MMSI Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship Interviews

On June 1st, we held our 12th Annual **MMSI Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship Interviews.**

The Scholarship Committee Members are: Kim Bright, Sharon Harleston, Claudette Edwards, Kathleen D. Taylor, Brenda Allen, Charlene Lambrecht and Felicia Peterson.

Pictured below are the 2024, APM Scholarship Interview Panelists: Sharon, Kim, Kathleen & Charlene



# CONGRATULATIONS



## 2024 Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship Recipients

### MS. BRIANNA WEBBER

Congratulations to Ms. Brianna Webber, 2024 Recipient of the Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship.

Ms. Webber attended Harry S. Truman High School, Bronx, New York. She was described by her College Advisor as *"mature, intelligent, articulate, hard-working, self-motivated, disciplined, responsible, funny, passionate, compassionate, and adventurous"* – Ms. Andrea Joubert-Guidance Counselor. These qualities will indeed propel her to success. Ms. Webber believes in being kind to others, following through on her commitments, and adding humor to encounters with friends.

She is passionate about issues that plague children which is evident in her volunteer activities at her local food pantry, packing articulation bags for middle school students, raising money to provide special dietary needs for children, participating in her school's community service, and being the student representative for the C-30 Process.

Ms. Webber's favorite subjects are Math and Science. Another way Brianna serves her community is by tutoring other students in math. She is delighted when her students return to express the positive progress they have made because of her help. She accepted an internship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine where she attended two Anatomy classes which she loved. She also shadows a local doctor after school every Tuesday. These activities are in line with her career goals of becoming a pediatrician.

Ms. Webber has been accepted at City University of New York, School of Medicine where her route to becoming a pediatrician begins by completing the Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program. We eagerly await news of her success.



# CONGRATULATIONS



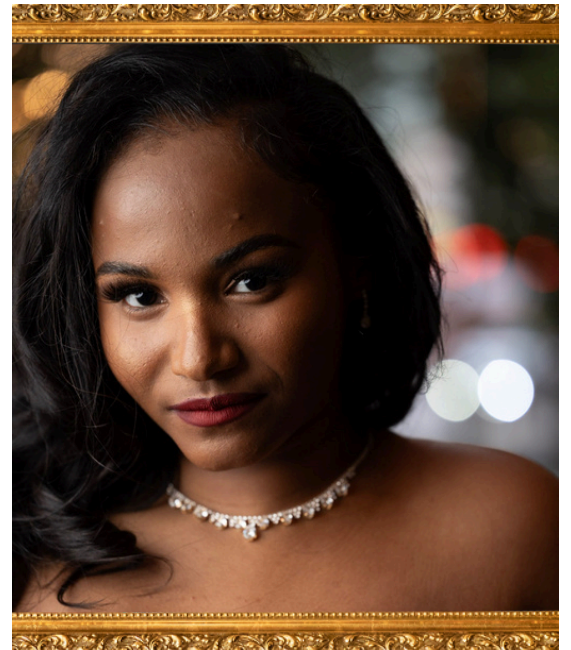
## 2024 Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship Recipients

### MS. ALISSA SAUNDERS

Congratulations to Ms. Alissa Saunders, 2024 Recipient of the Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship.

Ms. Saunders attended Harry S. Truman High School, Bronx, New York. There she participated in Girl's Inc, the Truman Dance Team, and Mock Trials. Her school counselor states that *"through her eloquent expression of complex ideas, she has consistently raised the bar in the classroom and served as an inspiring peer mentor in our girl's empowerment group"* – Ms. Katia Pilla, School Counselor.

At an early age, Alissa recognized the compassion bestowed upon others by her mother who is a nurse. Later, Alissa was able to show that compassion as she interned at White Plains Hospital as a nurse's assistant. She recounts being able to comfort patients when they needed it the most. Alissa describes caring for others as a superpower and is happy to follow in her mother's footsteps.



Ms. Saunders has been accepted to Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College in New York and is pursuing a nursing degree. She also desires to have a minor in political science in efforts to address the high mortality rate of pregnant women of color.

We are certain she will be successful.



# CONGRATULATIONS



## 2024 Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship Recipients

### MS. KHADIJA NDAO

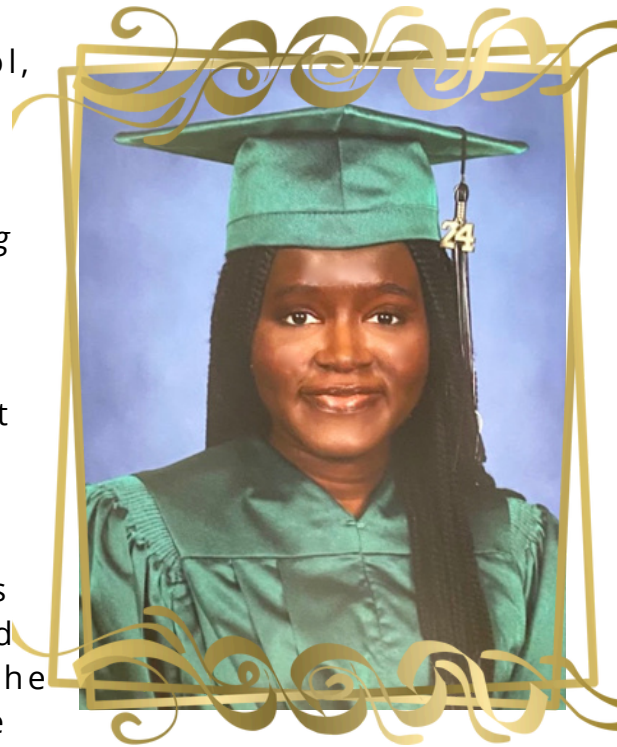
Congratulations to Khadija Ndao, 2024 Recipient of the Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship.

Ms. Ndao attended Harry S. Truman High School, Bronx, New York. Her school counselor writes that she seldom encounters a student as exceptionally prepared for college as Khadija and that *"her academic achievements are nothing short of extraordinary"* – Elizabeth Stout, School Counselor.

Ms. Ndao was a member of student government where she ensured the organization's effectiveness and that her peers' voices were heard. She demonstrated leadership in helping her school secure funding for student activities beyond the classroom. She actively participated in classroom collaborations while engaging in the Mock Trial and Moot Courts program where she researched established case law and precedents.

Ms. Ndao takes pride in serving as a peer leader in the Relationship Abuse Prevention Program and hopes to bring awareness to domestic violence. Her desire to bring awareness reached beyond school as she participated in the Bride March honoring the memory of victims of domestic violence. She was also actively involved in the community service organizations of the African Club, Gay-Straight Alliance, and BuildOn.

Ms. Ndao has been accepted at the University of Pennsylvania where she will major in political science and pursue a law degree. Her dream is to become an immigration attorney where she can continue her commitment to serving others. We look forward to hearing about her dreams coming to fruition.



# HONORING JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY

Juneteenth, celebrated annually on June 19th, became a federal holiday in 2021 which commemorates the day the Union soldiers in Galveston, Texas enforced the Emancipation Proclamation & the last slaves learned they were free two and a half years after President Lincoln signed the proclamation.

For this holiday, we all owe a huge debt of thanks to **Ms. Opal Lee** (born October 7, 1926) who is known as the “**Grandmother of Juneteenth**”. Ms. Lee is a Texas native, a retired teacher and an activist who worked for decades to make Juneteenth a federal holiday. To help promote the idea of the holiday, she (as a senior citizen) leads and walks in an annual 2.5 mile walk (which represents the 2.5 years it took for the news of the Emancipation Proclamation to reach the state of Texas).



In 1939 on the significant date of June 19th, her childhood home was completely destroyed when she was 12 years old. Her parents bought the home that year in the mostly white area of Fort Worth, Texas. An angry mob of 500 white rioters showed up at her home to protest against Black families moving into that area, so they vandalized and burned her home to the ground. Ms. Lee said, “The fact that this happened on the 19th day of June has spurred me to make people understand that Juneteenth is not just a festival.”

This year, at the age of 97, and five days before Juneteenth was celebrated, Opal Lee moved into her new home on the same lot where her childhood home once stood. For many years she tried to find out who owned the plot of land. Ironically, Ms. Lee used to serve on the Board for Habitat for Humanity (Habitat) & she found out they owned the land. She tried to buy the land but Habitat would not sell it to her. Habitat gave her the land for free as well as plans to build a new home.

On May 3, 2024 Ms. Opal Lee was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Joe Biden.

To read more about Opal Lee and her annual walks, visit her website:  
<https://www.opalswalk2dc.com>





## ***We Lead & We Laugh!!! Comedy Night Fundraiser Saturday, August 3, 2024***

*Please join the Malik Melodies for a great night of fun and laughter at  
**WE LEAD & WE LAUGH!!!** A Comedy Night Fundraiser for the "WE LEAD:  
Empowering Our Girls Conference"*

**Host:** Sinck!

**Comedians:** Mugga, Brooklyn Mike,  
Stephanie Kay & Hamburger

**Music by:** DJ Stokes

**Date:** Saturday, August 3, 2024

**Venue:** 275 Park - The Home of the  
Laffaholics, Brooklyn, NY

**Admission:** \$35 in Advance  
\$40 at the Door + 2 Item Minimum

**\*Doors Open 7pm / Show Starts 8pm**

**\*General admission seating only.**

**Arrive EARLY for Best Seating & Parking**

**\*50/50 Raffle and other fun prizes!**

### **What is the WE LEAD: Empowering Our Girls Conference all about?**

In celebration of Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.'s anniversary & the International Day of the Girl Child, our conference addresses the needs & challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment & the fulfillment of their human rights. The conference also provides networking with other girls, women, community leaders & organizations that share similar core values to that of MMSI: Leadership, Empowerment, Collaboration, Faith, Sisterhood, Cultural Enrichment & Education, Civic & Social Responsibility.

### **Purchase Tickets:**

[https://We\\_Lead\\_We\\_Laugh\\_2024.eventbrite.com](https://We_Lead_We_Laugh_2024.eventbrite.com) or  
<https://www.malikmelodies.org/>

For Info Contact: WeLead@malikmelodies.org or 516-849-6341

**Comedy Night** | **SAT AUG 3 8 PM**

MALIK MELODIES SISTERHOOD, INC. PRESENTS  
**WE LEAD & WE LAUGH!!!**  
Fundraiser to support the  
WE LEAD: Empowering Our Girls Conference

275 Park - Home of The Laffaholics Comedy Club  
275 Park Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11205  
**\*\*Doors open at 7:00 PM\*\***

**\$35 in Advance / \$40 at the Door + 2 Item Minimum**

**Contact 516-849-6341 for more info**

 <b>SINCK</b> HOST	 <b>MUGGA</b> COMEDIAN	 <b>BROOKLYN MIKE</b> COMEDIAN
 <b>DJ STOKES</b> DJ	 <b>STEPHANIE KAY</b> COMEDIAN	 <b>HAMBURGER</b> COMEDIAN

**275 PARK** Home of the Laffaholics Comedy Club

Purchase Tickets:  
[https://we\\_lead\\_we\\_laugh\\_2024.eventbrite.com](https://we_lead_we_laugh_2024.eventbrite.com)

# The Graces

The Official Newsletter of the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.



## Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship

### \$20/25 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.  
13th Annual Angela Pauling  
Memorial Scholarship



DONATE ON-LINE with [PayPal, Credit or Debit Card](https://www.malikmelodies.org) at  
<https://www.malikmelodies.org> OR

Via Zelle at: [MalikMelodies@gmail.com](mailto: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 8:00 pm

## The Graces Staff

Kim J. Bright  
Sharon Harleston  
Lisa Rodriguez  
Anita Wallace  
Tawanikka Smith

## Executive Board

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

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