

The Graces

The Official Newsletter of the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2019



Highlights from WE LEAD: Empowering Our Girls Conference

On October 12th, the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. hosted the 2nd annual WE LEAD: Empowering Our Girls Conference at Nelson Mandela School for Social Justice in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, NY. The event created a lasting impact on the men, women, and more importantly, the young girls who were in attendance.

The conference buzzed with excitement as it was equally filled with education and inspiration. Guest speakers touched the souls of our audience with empowering words, breathtaking remarks, and true stories of triumphs and tribulations experienced by women and girls. Lydia Bomani authentically engaged the audience using the Menti website; Monique Akil spoke her truth and encouraged us to take risks; Joi Grant taught us to follow our own path and step out of our comfort zone; Cloyette Harris-Stoute and Femi Badele taught us self acceptance and all things body positive! Bricks 4 Kidz exposed our young girls of the possibilities in STEM and engineering; FleekFit kept our energy high; and the Young Queens Project crowned our young girls Queens with positive affirmations.

MMSI would like to extend its sincerest gratitude and thanks to our participants, workshop providers, organizations, presenters, guest speakers, sponsors, entertainers and volunteers who contributed to the success of this event. We would also like to thank our Brothers of MALIK Fraternity, Inc. for their continuous love and support.

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A BLACK EDUCATION NETWORK
ABEN
 Formerly the California Alliance of African American Educators (CAAAE)

Deidre Avery-Burt

Kathleen & Raven Taylor

BEOC
 BROOKLYN HOUSE OF COMFORT

Ryan Simmons

Veniz Lewis

Our Contributors

- ✦ Doreen Francis
- ✦ Crystal Herbert
- ✦ Marjorie Jean-Pierre
- ✦ Dawn Cotter-Jenkins
- ✦ Jean Perry
- ✦ John Powell
- ✦ Marjorie Valbrun
- ✦ Food Universe Marketplace
- ✦ Lawrence H. Woodward Funeral Home

Special Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors and Contributors

WE LEAD: EMPOWERING OUR GIRLS CONFERENCE

REGISTER AT: www.MalikMelodies.org October 12, 2019

Cayuga Centers

Vedic Dental

Thank You!

Featured Guest Speakers

Dr. Monique Darrin Awkin

Yolanda Brathwaite Crownn Carls Inc.

Mikki Arlene Ealey

Joi U. Grant

Dr. Coralane Griffith-Hurt

Lyda Colon Bonari Educator

Clyette Harris-Sloffe

Emalyn Stuart Film Producer

WE LEAD: EMPOWERING OUR GIRLS CONFERENCE

REGISTER AT: www.MalikMelodies.org October 12, 2019 9-4pm

Shirley Llavoni
 Mother of Ceremony





Please Support Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. #GivingTuesday

December 3, 2019 - www.MalikMelodies.org

#GIVINGTUESDAY is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world on December 3, 2019 and every day. It was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good.

On this **#GIVINGTUESDAY** we are requesting your support for **MMSI's Annual Memorial Scholarship** and our **Annual WE LEAD: Empowering Our Girl's Conference**.

Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. (MMSI), a 501(c)4 non-profit organization was established on December 14, 1978 at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University by 24 conscious and innovative women. Since 1978, MMSI's primary focus has been to develop leaders, install motivation, self-esteem, determination and a sense of commitment within women who address issues that confront them in the educational and professional environment as well as in the communities where they reside.

The Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship is dedicated to honor MMSI Co-Founder who succumbed to cancer in 2010. The scholarship is earmarked for Angela's alma mater, Harry S. Truman in the Bronx, NY and we are excited to continue Angela's legacy with the issuance of our 8th annual scholarship in 2020. [Click Here](#) to learn more about our Angela Pauling Scholars or visit <https://www.malikmelodies.org/angela-pauling-memorial-scholarship>.

In 2018, MMSI launched the **Inaugural WE LEAD: Empowering Our Girls Conference** (in Queens, NY) to have a more meaningful and far reaching impact within our communities. Our conference aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while also promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. This amazing event provides motivating messages and workshops from women on the challenges they faced and how they pushed past them. The day culminates with the **"Gems Among Us" Awards** presentation, honoring outstanding individuals and organizations for their commitment to uplifting and empowering our girls.

We hosted a successful **2nd Annual 2019 WE LEAD: Empowering Our Girls Conference in Brooklyn, NY at the Nelson Mandela School For Social Justice**. In 2020, we will host the **3rd Annual Conference in the Bronx, NY** and mid-year programs to Empower OUR Girls.

We are requesting your **#GIVINGTUESDAY** support for our annual scholarship and these special events. Please help us give back to the community and to expose young ladies and girls to opportunities which can positively enhance their lives.

Please Donate and Join MMSI In Making a Difference!!

DONATE ONLINE by Clicking Here

**DONATE BY CHECK payable to "Malik Melodies Sisterhood Inc." and mail to P.O. Box 260430,
Bellerose NY, 11426**

DONATE VIA ZELLE to: malikmelodies@gmail.com

Please email any related questions or comments to welead@malikmelodies.org. Follow Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. on Facebook and Instagram for related messages and Thank You for your donation on #GIVINGTUESDAY,



December 3, 2019.



Introducing the Queens of Nomusa

On August 3rd, 2019, four Queens were born into the Malik Family. They are the Queens of Nomusa and our Generational Leaders!



The Goal-Getting Melody

Jillian Gibson (Zemora Akani Kinaya Nomusa)

“One Who Knows The Way to Build Independence and Is Filled With Compassion”

Jillian holds an MBA and an MS in Health Systems and is a graduate of the Accomplishment Coaching Certified Coach Training Program. She is an active member of the International Coaching Federation, Association for Talent Development, and the Society of Human Resources Management.

Jillian also serves as an active member of [Everwise](#) an online mentoring program, a member of TEDxDeerPark planning committee and Taproot Foundation - a nonprofit and social change organization. She learned of the Malik Melodies through Gracious Melody Nathalie Lilavois and attended WE LEAD: Empowering Our Girls Conference in October 2018.

The mission of the Malik Melodies aligns with her personal belief in leadership, and leadership development of women and girls of color; this raised a greater interest in the organization.

Jillian has her own coaching practice CleanUpinAisle5 believing each person is a leader. The leader has to be “AWAKEN”. Jillian is our goal-getting Melody, she’s always on the move to conquer her next goal!



The Activist Melody

Kendra Rivers (Fari Sikia Nomusa)

“The Queen Who Brings Harmony and Is Filled With Compassion”



Kendra is a first year 5th grade teacher in the South Metro Atlanta area. Although, this is her first-year teaching as a full-time teacher she is no stranger to the education field. Kendra has served the youth in different settings, from different backgrounds for ten years. Kendra’s passion is to help children persevere in this rapid transforming world.

Kendra developed a youth organization, The Young Queens Project (TYQP), that primarily serves young girls of different populations. Her organization started out as mini sessions to teach boys and girls about affirmations and manners. Three years later, in 2017 Kendra partnered with a church in her hometown to create a mentorship program for girls of ages 5 to 10. This was the launch of TYQP in having a foundation in mentoring and educating girls about self-awareness and etiquette. As Kendra relocated to Atlanta, she continued to manifest TYQP into an organization to help girls and communities. Recently, TYQP partnered with a youth organization in East Point Atlanta called Restoration ATL to help girls who are transitioning out of homelessness. The Young Queens Project’s community impact was recognized by the Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. at the 2019 WE LEAD conference with the Gems Among Us award.

Kendra’s drive to make a difference does not have boundaries. She is an Assistant Varsity Coach for Girls’ Basketball and Soccer at Hampton High School. Also, she is a leader in the youth ministry at the DreamCenter church of Atlanta. Although Kendra is new to the Malik family, she is very familiar with the MALIK Fraternity and Malik Melodies Sisterhood due to the royal ties of her father, Sir Crown Edward Rivers, Jr.

The Melody of All Trades

Bibi Chaterpateah (Ilham Fadhili Nomusa)
"One Who Inspires, Is Kind and Is Filled With Compassion"

Bibi holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Biology and is currently the lead teacher for 7th grade chemistry at Success Academy Ditmas Park Middle School in Brooklyn, New York. Upon graduating from the University at Albany in May of 2018, Bibi intended to begin her career in medicine, but answered to a calling in education. She started teaching 5th grade math her first year, followed by 6th grade science later that year, and now teaches 7th grade chemistry.

Bibi serves not only as an educator, but as a life coach to her students. Her goal as an educator is to inspire, motivate, and mold successful students of color to be competitive global scholars. Working in a data driven world, Bibi pushes her students to achieve at the highest level. Most recently, her students ranked #2 in the network of her schools in their assessments.

Bibi is extremely passionate about medicine and is dedicated to pursuing a career as a medical doctor in the near future. She is an English Language Editor for the Erbil Journal of Nursing and Midwifery, a journal in which she is a published author. Bibi is an active member of Mentoring in Medicine (MIM) in which served as a program coordinator and curriculum developer for the Summer 2019 CareerCLUE program. She also volunteers her time at Jacobi Medical Center Emergency Department as well as local community events.



The Melody that Signs

Melissa Pacheco (Jazarah Zawadi Nomusa)
"Blessed Princess, Who Is Blessed with Power & Wealth
and Is Filled With Compassion"

Melissa Edith Pacheco, a native of Washington Heights, NY, attended New York University for 1-year and transferred to CUNY College of Staten Island where in 2017 she received a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology, with a concentration in Critical and Social Psychology with a minor in American Sign Language. Simultaneously, Melissa completed trade school in Interpreting for American Sign Language at Seymour Joseph School of American Sign Language, in which she graduated in August 2017.

Melissa successfully launched a limited liability company for interpreting services named, MelPac Interpreting Services, LLC (est. April 2018). Currently she works as a freelance interpreter with a main concentration in medical and mental health interpreting.

Melissa learned of the Malik Melodies from Gracious Melody Kathleen D. Taylor while volunteering as an interpreter for the inaugural We Lead: Empowering Our Girls Conference. She was inspired by the organization's mission and sparked an interest in joining the organization.

Melissa was nominated by MMSI for Comite Noviembre's prestigious 2019 "Lo Mejor de Nuestra Comunidad" award; meaning "The Best In Our Community". Comite Noviembre highlights outstanding Puerto Ricans who promote community, change and social justice. This surprise nomination was met with success as Melissa was chosen as one of the eight winners for 2019.



Melody Kendra Rivers Continues to Foster Change and Empower Our Youth Through Social Activism

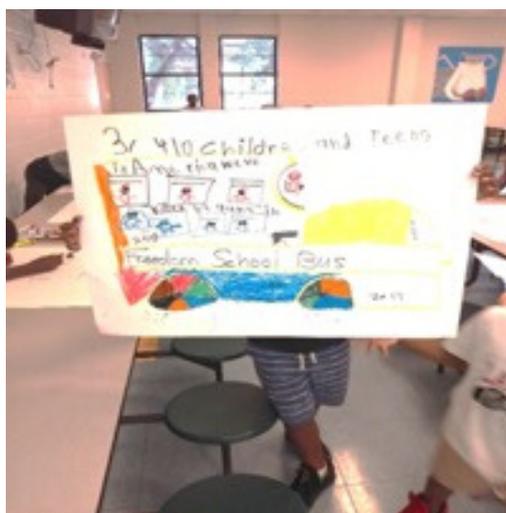
The streets of Peoplestown, Atlanta, GA was echoing chants, “Protect Children, Not Guns,” from children from ages 5 to 12 years old. The Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools is a literacy program that bridges the gap of reading levels with children in underserved communities. As a literacy program, CDF Freedom Schools’ focus entails a little bit more than reading; its scope includes community and parent engagement as well as social action awareness.



Kendra Rivers, a new MMSI member spearheaded the Social Action committee for her site which was sponsored by Emmaus House in Atlanta. This is Kendra’s fourth year participating with Freedom Schools, where she worked in a leadership role assisting new facilitators and coordinators. Kendra’s goal for her site was to create a strong awareness about the selected topic, “Gun Violence Prevention.” Kendra knew creating awareness around such a sensitive topic not be confined to just learning the information. An integral part was empowering the scholars to believe they have a voice. Kendra hosted 30 – 60 minute workshops for a week to instill the information and facilitated discussions about the topic. After scholars gained a solid understanding, Kendra challenged their passion to a “write to your legislature” session and an Open Mic Night to express their feelings through their talents. Over twenty scholars expressed their concerns by using their musical and artistic talents at the Open Mic Night.

In July 17th, 2019, over 80 scholars were excited to show their signs and chant, “Protect Children, Not Guns.”

Volunteers and friends came out to support the scholars and the cause to bring awareness to gun violence. The scholars marched throughout their community with passion and enthusiasm. Kendra was excited and thrilled to see such eagerness in the scholars to participate in the march and in the social action activities.



Malik's on the Move

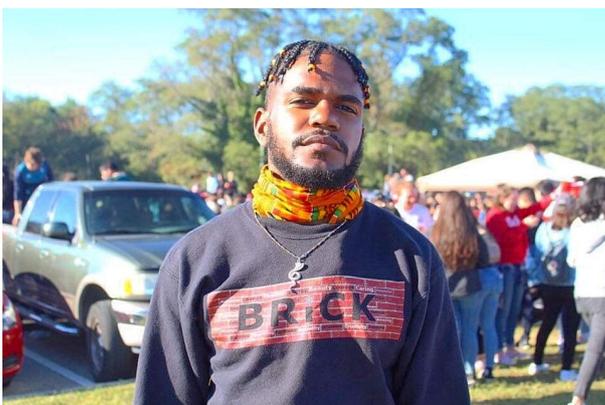


MALIK Brother Efrin Martinez Cuevas is a young entrepreneur who has successfully launched a clothing line, Iconic Vibes Only, and a Mental Health and Wellness Center, Top Icon Community Center. Efrin crossed into MALIK Fraternity, Inc. in Spring 2017, and he is the first member of his family to be a part of a fraternity.

Efrin, the first in his family to attend college is currently a senior at SUNY Old Westbury and will be graduating in May 2020 with a degree in Management Information and Systems. Efrin's journey has not been an easy one, and even so, he continues to develop himself each and every day. After applying to SUNY Old Westbury, Efrin was denied college acceptance twice. Efrin was guided by his high school counselor to not settle into a two-year program, and with this encouragement and Efrin's tenacity, he was able to push through and get into a four-year program at SUNY Old Westbury.

At the age of 13, Efrin moved from the Dominican Republic to New York, where he faced numerous adversities from culture shock to his skin color, to not speaking English, and even to the way he dressed. Growing up, Efrin was raised by a single mother and experienced unfortunate instances of domestic violence and child abuse. The trauma experienced influenced and affected him deeply, as well as his relationships with the people in his life. His resiliency through these problematic experiences was a driving force that led Efrin to launch a clothing line and to create a space for healing and wellness.

With two successful businesses under his belt, Efrin continues to raise the bar for himself as he aims to continue to build a career in sales or product manager at a higher level. As the owner of Top Icon Community Center, Efrin's goal is to provide a safe space for his community to heal, learn, and develop themselves through a shared space.



604 Woodfield Road,
West Hempstead, NY



@iconicvibesonly



@papiefrin



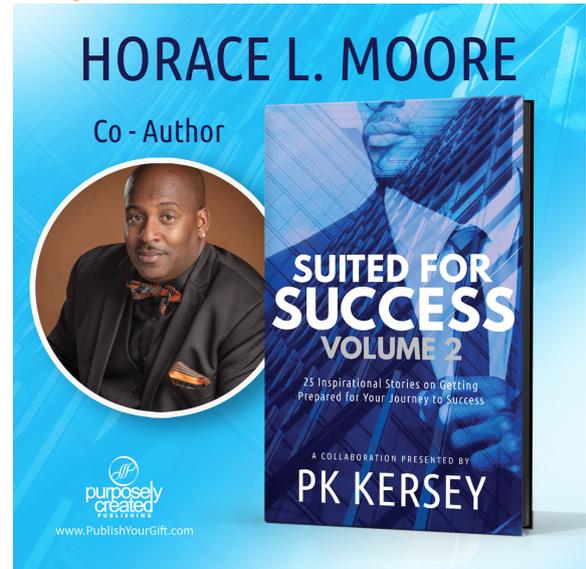
@thetopiconcenter

What's New?!

Chionesu Bakari Founder/Executive Director and MALIK Brother Horace Moore and now AUTHOR will debut his writing in *Suited for Success Vol.2: An Anthology of Life Stories and Experiences to Guide Strong Young Black Men and Adults*. Brother Moore shares his powerful life journey and valuable insight on mentorship. This book is an invaluable guide for young men and adults.

Be among the first to have this outstanding book! Click here to purchase your copy.

To learn more Chionesu Bakari Program for Young Black Men [click here](#).



Upcoming Events-November

NEW YORK



Lessons For My Daughters is an innovative and unique workshop aimed at empowering young women and girls. Over the course of six to eight weeks, participants will rediscover the beauty and magic inside them that is uniquely theirs. **Register [here](#) for the January series.**



18th Annual Khalifah Klassic Football Game hosted by the NYC Shabazz Kingdom

Date: Saturday, November 30th, 2019

Location: Riverside Park 107th-108th St, New York, NY

Time: Pre-Game: 11am-12pm; Kickoff: 12pm



Upcoming Events-December

ATLANTA



The The Young Queens Project (TYQP) "I Am" Tea Party
December 15th at 3pm; Location TBA

TYQP is a creative way for girls to learn, create, and be empowered.

NEW YORK



THEO: "Young People Affecting Change in Our Communities" (FREE EVENT)

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 4pm-7pm

SUNY Downstate Medical Center- Alumni Auditorium

395 Lenox Rd, Brooklyn, NY 11203.

2019 The Power of Color: Black 100

Monday, December 9, 2019 6:30PM-8:30PM

Ginny's Supper Club

310 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, NY

Celebrate the Black leaders who have made significant impacts in the Black community



BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Sitting Group

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 7PM – 9 PM

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

208 W 13th St, New York, NY

Meditation Practice-all levels welcomed; \$10 suggested donation; no one will be turned away for lack of funds.



Upcoming Events-January

NEW YORK



Guyanese Girls Rock Young Women Leadership Academy (YWLA) supports the development of young female leaders in the Guyanese community. Through a series of instructor led lessons and workshops, young women and girls are given a unique opportunity to learn from and build trusting relationships with female professionals and mentors. This free biweekly Saturday program focuses on 3 key areas: building identity, developing self-confidence, and learning leadership skills. Registration ends December 16, 2019.

Program Dates: Every other Saturday from Jan. 18th- June 20th.

Program Location: The Teen Center, Queens Central Library

89-11 Merrick Blvd. Jamaica NY

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

