

♦ 35th Anniversary  
Gala Highlights

♦ Celebrating Black History and a special woman who keeps us connected to our past through social media.

♦ Gala Photos may be viewed or purchased at

[www.ivationphoto.com/p501531440](http://www.ivationphoto.com/p501531440)

Photos in this issue by:  
Erskine Isaac,  
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# The Graces

*The Official Newsletter of Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc.*



January / February 2014

## Celebrating 35 Years of EmpoweHERing Women Leaders

On October 12, 2013, Malik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. celebrated our 35th Anniversary with a magnificent gala held at Antun's in Queens Village, NY. Members, friends and family reminisced, reflected and regained a new sense of commitment to the mission of MMSI.



MMSI Founders (left to right): Lisa Jones, Kim Bright, Coral Fraser, Gloria Bradshaw, Dorothy Johnson, Felicia Peterson, Natalie Cowart

## Gala & Awards Program Hosted by Dawn Cotter-Jenkins



Dawn Cotter-Jenkins

The evening hosted by MMSI's very own Dawn Cotter-Jenkins, was filled with an overwhelming sense of excitement, pride and love, as Sisters, Brothers and extended family members came together for the first time in years; moments filled with tears of joy from unexpected reunions. Enjoy the moments that follow! Congrats and Thank You to all Sisters on the Gala Committee for a beautiful and memorable evening!!



Ashley McMikle & Barbara Johnson-Barnett



**We Are The  
Shoulders of  
Today for  
Tomorrow's  
Future!**

**“ Know Your  
Value...  
Don't confuse  
your net worth  
with your self-  
worth”**

**- Marsha Haygood**



Caption describing  
picture or graphic.

## Marsha Haygood Provides 35th Anniversary Keynote Address

Marsha Haygood, of StepWise Associates, LLC is a career and life coach, talent development expert, motivational speaker and author. Ms. Haygood's inspiring and empowering keynote address was based on the book she co-authored with Elaine Meryl Brown and Rhonda Joy McLean, *The Little Black Book of Success: Laws of Leadership for Black Women*.

Ms. Haygood reminds us in Chapter 40 to “*Reach Back and Bring Others Along...You are already a role model for others whether you know it or not.*”



## NY State Assembly & Washington DC Council Honor MMSI

Three members of the New York State Assembly recognized MMSI's 35th anniversary by honoring us with Ceremonial Citations which acknowledged MMSI's leadership, dedication and work within the communities of NY State.

Citations were received from: NY State Assem-

blywoman Vivian E. Cox, NY State Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie, and NY State Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solanges.

In Washington, DC, Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie and the Council of the District of Columbia formally recognized at MMSI's 35th anniversary with a Ceremonial Reso-

lution highlighting MMSI's work with the Artist Networking & Mentor Initiative and our support of the Asa Restoration Project.

To learn more about MMSI's initiatives visit: [www.malikmelodies.org](http://www.malikmelodies.org)

(Left to Right) Brookhaven Long Island Town Council Member Valerie Cartwright and NY State Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solanges of District 22, present NY State Assembly Ceremonial Citations to Executive Board Vice President Nathalie Lilavois and Executive Board President Sherlyn Ortiz..





## 35th Anniversary Gala Honors and Awards!!

### **Presidential Service Award**

*The U.S. President Council on Service and Civic Participation was established in 2003 to recognize valuable contributions, volunteers are making in our community and to encourage more people to serve.*

#### **AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Gold - 500 Hours or more of**

**Volunteer Service:**

MGM Kim Bright

GM Sherlyn Ortiz

GM Harriet Williams

**Silver - 250-499 Hours**

GM Nathalie Lilavois

GM Mary Richardson

**Bronze - 100-249 Hours**

GM Sharon Harleston

Lisa Kirkland Sutherland

GM Maria Lopez



### **Emerging Young Leader Award**

Bro. Umaru Barrie and GM Juceliz Batista  
with EB President Ortiz



### **The Gems Among Us Award**

Bro. Erskine Isaac & Bro. Troy Brathwaite



**MGM Kim Bright**

**Receives**

**Inaugural**

**Sankofa Award**

### **One Warm Coat Award Recipients**

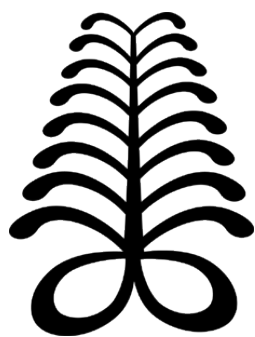


GM Stacey Leveille, GM Nathalie Lilavois, GM Sherlyn Ortiz, GM Sharon Harleston, & GM Maria Lopez

### **Melody of the Year!**



GM Nathalie Lilavois with  
Daughter, Brianna



### Malik Melodies

~  
35 Years of  
EmpowHERing  
Women Leaders

**“My belief is that education is our golden ticket to opportunity. When you take advantage of your opportunity, or when someone else pushes you to do so, you have endless opportunities.”**

~ GM Juceliz Batista

### More Gala Memorable Moments



Spoken Word by GMs Juceliz Batista, Zainab Abdul-karim, & Mildred Ngminebayihi



JCAL Dance Company a.k.a. “DisTraction” graced us with an amazing performance! The Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning was founded in 2013 by Alicia Hutchinson & Kyarry Vilfort. To learn more visit: <http://jcal.org/>



GM Lisa Love Whittington, educator and artist, created a beautiful titled “Most Gracious” in honor of Malik Melodies 24 Founders. The painting was donated to the gala’s silent auction scholarship fundraiser. MMSI’s artist mentor’s from our Artist Networking & Mentor Initiative also donated original works of art for the silent auction. A special thanks to

artists Karl Graham, Dirk Joseph, Imani Russell, Olwatoyin Tella and Paula Whaley. The auction raised over \$1500.

Special thanks all donors: Erskine Isaac of Ivision Photography, Chantell Christopher of Life Theater, Marsha Haygood, Nathalie Lilavois, Mary Richardson, Lisa Rodriguez, Michael Rene’e

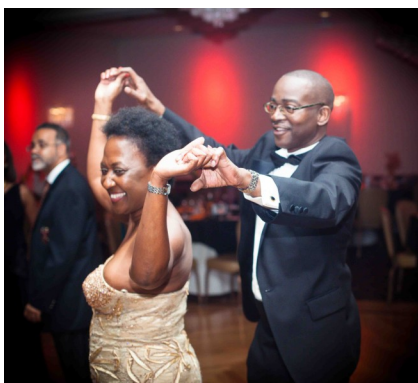
Bro. Mike Day  
Brings Greetings  
from the MALIK  
National  
Office



GMs Lisa Kirkland-Sutherland, Vanessa Miller and Dawn Cotter-Jenkins announce winners of table lotteries

Daniels, and Kim Bright.

### Party Time!!!



Bro. Mark Wade  
gets the party going!



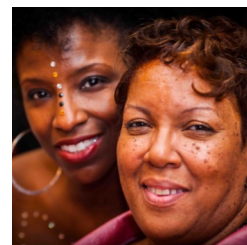


## Sir Crowns Salute Malik Melodies

The Sir Crowns provided a heartfelt tribute to honor the Malik Melodies on 35 years of empowerment, social action, and building communities and developing women leaders.

They reminisced about our formative years and our journey to reach this magnificent milestone in history.

Well Done Sisters!



## Inaugural Angela Pauling Memorial Scholarship

Shalena Boca is MMSI's 2013 Angela Pauling Scholar. She was awarded the inaugural scholarship in the amount of \$1,500.

The APM Scholarship was named in honor of Angela Pauling-Taylor, one of MMSI's 24 Founders diagnosed with cancer and joined the Ancestors in 2010. The scholarship is open to college bound seniors from Angela's high school. Harry S. Truman in the Bronx,

NY. Ms. Boca was a senior in high school when she applied for the scholarship. Now she is a Pace University undergraduate.

The award was presented by Scholarship Chair, GM Mary Richardson along with the Angela's Parents, Sister and Daughter. Angela's Daughter Lauryn also read a letter from father, Cleve Taylor.

To learn more about the APM Scholarship and how you can

donate to the fund, visit: [www.malikmelodies.org](http://www.malikmelodies.org).



*"I am always looking into the future progress of my people while taking into account the greatness we once had."*  
~ Umaru Barrie



(Left to Right) Clifford E. Pauling (Father), Ericka Davis (Sister), Shalena Boca, Lauryn Taylor (Daughter) LaVerne Pauling (Mother) with Scholarship Chair, GM Mary Richardson.



**Inward...  
Onward...  
Upward!!!**

**CONGRATS  
Shalena!!**



## MALIK MELODIES SISTERHOOD, INC.

### *The Graces Staff*

Juceliz Batista  
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## MMSI Celebrates Black History Month Lesley Gist-Etheridge ~ In Honor of Women



Lesley Gist is a high school teacher, historian, and author from New

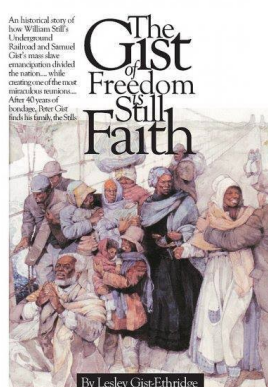
Jersey who advocates promoting social change brought about by people acting in good faith towards one another.

Mrs. Gist came to MMSI's attention via her Facebook page which highlights African American History. It is a page that everyone should "like" and share with others, especially children and teachers.

Mrs. Gist is the author of *The Gist of Freedom is Still Faith* which tells of the journey of William Still, a Black abolitionist

from Philadelphia. The New York Times as coined Mr. Still as "The Father of the Underground Railroad". He commissioned Harriet Tubman's rescue missions and literally wrote the

stories within the world of the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad. Still's tells of his poverty, prosperity, and philanthropy. His work as an abolitionist permitted him to unknowingly have the miraculous reunion between his lost enslaved brother, Peter Gist and their mother Charity. The Still and Gist family legacies tell of a story of triumph in the midst of one of history's most horrific indignities.



Underground Railroad book.

*The Gist of Freedom is Still Faith* traces several tremendous people and

To learn more visit:

<http://www.thegistoffreedom.com>

**M**alik Melodies Sisterhood, Inc. is a non-profit 501c4 leadership development organization dedicated to fostering cultural enrichment and advocating civic and social responsibility. To learn more about MMSI visit [www.malikmelodies.org](http://www.malikmelodies.org).

**MALIK MELODIES**  
SISTERHOOD, INC.

**LEADERSHIP.  
EMPOWERMENT.  
COLLABORATION.  
FAITH.**

[www.malikmelodies.org](http://www.malikmelodies.org)

We Are the Shoulders of Today  
for Tomorrow's Future

Cultural Enrichment & Education  
Civic & Social Responsibility

