

Seven Roses Legacy Foundation



Volume 1; Issue 2

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Message to Our Readers



Dear Friends,

What kind of impact can we make by teaching a young girl how to express herself through dance? How much further can she go if she can hear about success journeys from women who have already walked a mile in similar shoes?

The Seven Roses Legacy Foundation, the charitable arm of Eta Nu Sigma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, believes these actions can have a large impact on the lives of young women of Brooklyn and Queens. Founded in 2005 and now a 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation's mission is to **empower youth to expand their cultural horizons, improve their financial literacy and seek higher education opportunities.**

We hope to use our bi-annual newsletter as a vehicle to give you a better glimpse of the work of the Foundation. In this issue, we will share updates on our past scholarship winners, take you inside our first Rhose Buds of Spring Cotillion, and shine a special spotlight on one of our community's "Beacon of Lights", Darlene Aiken, of Inner Beauty Solutions.

The Seven Roses Legacy Foundation strives to create new opportunities for the children of Brooklyn and Queens. With the support of our community and corporate partners, we will continue to touch the lives of our youth and to expand our programs.

Sincerely,

Veronica Woods

Seven Roses Legacy Foundation, Board Chair

Founded in 2005, the Seven Roses Legacy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves as the charitable arm of the Eta Nu Sigma Alumnae Chapter of the illustrious Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. The purpose of the organization is to serve the Brooklyn and Queens communities in New York City by empowering youth to expand their cultural and social horizons, improve their financial literacy, and pursue higher education opportunities.

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Golden Mother's Day Scholarship Jazz Brunch

by Djenny Passe-Rodriguez



Golden Mother of the Year, Essence Magazine Editor-in-Chief, Angela Burt Murray

On May 9th, Eta Nu Sigma Alumnae Chapter held its annual Golden Mother's Day Scholarship Jazz Brunch at the Yale Club in New York City. Angela Burt Murray, Editor-in-Chief of *Essence* magazine and mother of two boys, was honored as the Golden Mother of the Year. Darlene Aiken was the recipient of the Beacon of Light award for her work with young girls as CEO and President of Inner Beauty Solutions. Soror Carla Chatelain was honored as the Soror of the Year. Soror Chatelain became a

member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority in 1993 and joined Eta Nu Sigma in 2001. She has been instrumental in the chapter's fundraising efforts and currently serves as the chapter's financial secretary.

The ladies of Eta Nu Sigma Alumnae Chapter were humbled by the presence of the sorority's international president, Joann G. Loveless. Her message that everyone commits themselves to uplifting matriarchs of every family inspired all in

attendance. During the brunch, the 2009 scholarship recipients were presented with certificates for their achievement. Tahsin Chowdhury was awarded the \$1,000 book scholarship, Anand Dookie, the \$750 book scholarship and Elissa Tam, the \$500 book scholarship.

The brunch wouldn't have been complete without outstanding performances by the seven-member jazz band called "The Scheme". Be sure to save the date for next year's brunch to be held on May 8, 2010.



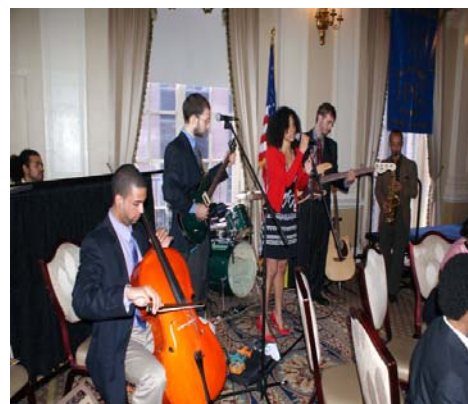
The esteemed International Grand Basileus, Soror Joann G. Loveless



Members of the Eta Nu Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. at the Golden Mother's Day Scholarship Jazz Brunch



Soror of the Year, Soror Carla Chatelain



Guests enjoying their time at the Brunch, and the Jazz band, *The Scheme*, entertaining the crowd

Making a Difference...Scholarships!



2009 Scholarship recipient,
Anand Dookie (center)



Soror Passe-Rodriguez with past
scholarship recipient winners

Each spring, during the Golden Mothers Day Scholarship Jazz Brunch, merit-based scholarship awards to graduating high school seniors entering their college freshman year. Over the years, Eta Nu Sigma Chapter of Brooklyn and Queens have given more than \$10,000 in scholarships. Under the umbrella of the Seven Legacy Roses Foundation, three high school seniors are awarded a book scholarship in the amount of \$500, \$750 and \$1,000.

Two former scholarship recipients have started the 2009-2010 academic year as sophomores after a prosperous freshman year at college. Eboni Blenman, the recipient of the Seven Roses Legacy Foundation \$1,000 book scholarship in 2008, is a sophomore at Howard University. Eboni is majoring in political science with a minor in Spanish. She has spent this past summer studying in Puerto Rico and has a 3.9 cumulative GPA. This semester, Eboni will be interning with the United States Department of Justice in the Civil Division and will continue to write for the Hilltop Newspaper, Howard University's student-run newspaper.

Luisa Batiz, the recipient of the Seven Roses Legacy Foundation \$750 book scholarship in 2008, is a sophomore at Binghamton University. Luisa is majoring in Sociology and Political Science and has a 3.3 cumulative GPA. This summer, she interned in Honduras for a Pan-African organization called ODECO, for whom she facilitated sex education workshops. While in Honduras, Luisa also taught first grade for another organization called Helping Honduras Kids.

**The Seven Roses Legacy Foundation wishes all
of the past scholarship recipients continued success!**



Applications for the 2010 Seven Roses Legacy Foundation book scholarship will be made available in November on the Foundation's website. For more information on supporting the Seven Roses Legacy Foundation, please send an email to info@sevenroses.org.

Upcoming Events



December 5th, 2010: Wee Savers:

Designed to improve financial literacy, the Wee Savers program facilitates workshops that teach students about the basics of saving, investing, and financial management.



March 13th, 2010: Youth Symposium:

Today's youth face a wide variety of challenges such as drug use, teen violence, low self-esteem, suicide, and early pregnancy. This annual program features a series of workshops and discussion panels that enable youth and community leaders to come together and explore practical working solutions to address these challenges.



May 8th, 2010: Golden Mother's Day Scholarship Jazz Brunch:

The 12th annual Golden Mother's Day Scholarship Jazz Brunch is the premier fundraiser for the Foundation, and celebrates the essence of motherhood and the outstanding service of leaders within the community. Merit-based scholarships are awarded to high school seniors participating in our annual essay contest. These awards are presented at the Golden Mother's Day Scholarship Jazz Brunch.



If interested in attending and/or participating in any of these events, please visit the Foundation's website at www.sevenroses.org for further details.



Seven Roses Spotlight on:

Darlene Aiken



Every year during the Golden Mother's Day Scholarship Jazz Brunch, the Beacon of Light Award is presented to a person or organization that has made significant contributions to the Brooklyn and Queens communities. Past honorees include Drew Giddings, founder of ACT for Children, and Earl Martin Phalen, founder of Building Educated Leaders for Life.

This year's Beacon of Light recipient was Darlene Aiken, chosen for her tireless effort to empower girls to consistently build their self-esteem and leadership skills. Darlene is the President and CEO of Inner Beauty Solutions, Incorporated™, the award winning Self-Esteem, Empowerment, and Leadership firm for young girls.

Interview with Darlene Aiken by Meredith Chase-Mitchell

What was your childhood like? What and who influenced you as a young girl?

It was great. I wouldn't trade my upbringing for anything. My parents were supportive, accomplished, and loving. Even with a strong family network, I still suffered from a low self esteem, no matter how much love and support was in the home. I've learned that over the years it's about the work you do and the value you place on it. My strong support at home was still affected by my peers and my own views of myself. It proved to me even more that young girls need multiple pillars of support.

Why did you start Inner Beauty Solutions?

I started to come into contact with more young girls through the jobs that I held in Social Work and Law enforcement, and as a Counselor. I saw firsthand the issues that young girls face. Inner Beauty Solutions also stemmed from a community service project and I started to put wheels in motion to save young girls in my community. I believe whole heartedly that it takes a village to raise a child. Inner Beauty Solutions allows me to create positive environments for young girls to thrive in. Some of our Inner Beauty Solutions alumni have gone on to make great strides and are presently undergraduate college students at schools like Spellman College, Hampton University, and Morgan State University.

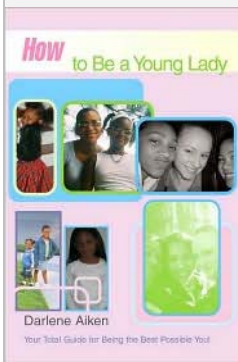
What role do the media play in the development of young girls?

The media plays a large role and has a powerful control over our youth, especially our young girls. Many times I see young girls who aren't comfortable in their skin, yet embrace the hyper sexualized images on television and in music through their choice of dress, speech and mannerisms. To counteract what influences our children, we need to raise the standards and instill principles. Our girls are easily influenced by images of sex and violence but never confidence. The younger our girls are when we engage them and teach them how to celebrate themselves, the higher the success rate we will have.

What are your goals for Inner Beauty Solutions?

I'd like to create a partnership with community based organizations to expand my programming to young boys. We presently serve young girls ages 8 to 10, predominantly African American, Latina and Asian. As Inner Beauty Solutions gains more coverage nationally, I also plan on expanding to serve young Caucasian girls who many often assume do not face the same issues. Often they suffer alone and do not receive the services that are geared towards young girls of color. Inner Beauty Solution aims on closing that gap. In the summer of 2010, we will be facilitating our first summer camp in Queens, New York. The camp has partnered with the Alvin Ailey School and additional community based organizations to offer our girls the best summer programming in the city.

By Darlene Aiken: *How to Be a Young Lady: Your Total Guide for Being the Best Possible You!*



A success story for Inner Beauty Solutions comes in the form of Najawa J. Glover. In her seventeen years of life, Najawa is an extremely motivated young lady. In addition to remaining on the honor roll from kindergarten until 8th grade, Najawa graduated as Valedictorian of her class. Since high school, she has been in high honors classes as well as remained on the first honor roll at Bishop Loughlin Catholic High School, where she attends on a partial academic scholarship. Najawa is very active with extra curricular activities such as track, cheerleading, and community service, which are a tiny portion of the activities Najawa is involved in. She volunteers her time to give back to help girls build their self-esteem with Inner Beauty Solutions. Her future goal is to attend The University of Pennsylvania or Spelman College where she will study International Business and Economics.

To learn more about Inner Beauty Solutions,
Visit the website at <http://www.innerbeautysolutions.org>.



Rhose Buds of Spring Cotillion by Taniqua Hunter

The mood was joyous as family and friends gathered to see the Rites of Passage of five young ladies during the Rhomania: Rhose Buds of Spring Cotillion. The cotillion was presented by the Seven Roses Legacy Foundation in conjunction with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., Eta Nu Sigma Chapter. The foundation was delighted to introduce its first Rhose Buds of Spring Class: Jazmin K. Cain, Jaimee E. Allen, Tauriqah Y. Carter, Merry S. Allen and Rosalind H. Fenner. These dedicated young ladies made their formal presentation to the community on June 20, 2009 at the University Club at Hofstra University.



Each young woman participated in a year long program geared to promote academic achievement, personal growth, and development. The cotillion curriculum focused on the following items to foster each participant's enhancement: etiquette training, academic advisement, personal goal planning, community service, appreciation of the arts, self-esteem building, health and wellness, and fiscal management. Each workshop was purposed to guide young ladies to increase their own personal awareness and potential, and to develop a higher level of self respect. The aim was to enrich the lives of youth and to establish life long positive habits.

Many individuals were vital in preparing the Rhose Buds class transition to High School and maturity. Taniella Harrison, Board Member of the Seven Roses Legacy Foundation served as the cotillion Chairwoman. Ms. Harrison was an ongoing source of support for the participants and coordinated all of their workshops and activities. Self Esteem classes were conducted by Darlene Aiken. LaTonya Blige-DaCosta helped each Rhose Bud learn proper etiquette skills. Dance instruction was provided by the Gloria Eve Performing Arts Foundation Inc. Brenda Hampton, President of HIS Daughters House Outreach Ministries, Inc. provided some mentorship to the girls. The generosity and commitment of Linda Cunegin of Tri-County Home Nursing Services provided corporate sponsorship for the program. Tri-County was instrumental in enabling each girl to participate in the self esteem and dance Classes. The foundation was honored to receive support from community partners, and supporters who shared the vision of improving the lives of young people.

The Cotillion program showcased the hard work and accomplishments of the first class. The entertainment and awards presentation added to the events festive mood. According to Taniella Harrison, the Cotillion's main organizer, the most touching part of the evening was "seeing each Rhose Bud decked out in their gowns"; walking poised and gracefully yet equipped for tomorrow's future.



Rhose Bud being escorted into the ballroom



Rhose Bud, Tauriqah Y. Carter, performing a praise dance



Edifying the young women of today, to become the leaders of tomorrow.



Rhose Buds with Etiquette Coach, Latonya Blige-Dacosta

**Seven Roses Legacy
Foundation**

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Donations

To make a tax-deductible donation to support the Seven Roses Legacy Foundation, please contact us at donations@sevenroses.org



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
<http://sevenroses.org/>

About Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Soaring to greater heights of attainment around the world, *Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.*, as a leading national service organization, has met the challenges of the day and continues to grow through Sisterhood, Scholarship and Service. Founded on November 12, 1922 at Butler University, *Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.* is a non-profit whose aim

is to enhance the quality of life within the community. Public service, leadership development and the education of youth are the hallmark of the organization's programs and activities. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority has over 90,000 members with more than 500 undergraduate and alumnae chapters throughout the

United States, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Africa and Korea.

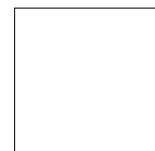


Visit our community partners below to learn about their programs and initiatives:

Eta Nu Sigma Brooklyn and Queens Alumnae Chapter,
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
www.etanusigma.org www.sgrho1922.org



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