



The Preserver

BLACK CULTURAL CENTRE FOR NOVA SCOTIA NEWSLETTER

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October 2009

UP HOME Exhibit Opening Celebration !



Shauntay Grant & Susan Tooke Rev. Alfreda Smith Anne Simmons

On Friday, October 9 at 7:30pm the opening ceremony was held for the acclaimed exhibit based on Ms. Shauntay Grant & Ms. Susan Tooke award winning children's book , "Up Home". This book is based on Ms. Grant childhood memories growing up in her ancestral community, affectionately called up home, meaning North Preston.

Appreciation is to be given to Art Gallery of Nova Scotia / Arts Smart staff for generous time and support from start to finish in transporting the exhibit to installation.

The Black Cultural Centre was a buzz with excited individuals on that evening anxiously waiting to purchase their personally autographed copy from the author and artist in attendance. The ceremony then began with a bang with the sounds of African drumming by BCC Chief Curator / M.C. for the evening Dr. Henry Bishop and his warm greeting of those in attendance was greeted with applause. The official opening prayer was presented by Rev. Alfreda Smith of North Preston, who happens to be the grandmother of author / poet Grant as well. Following this was a rousing rendition of "Lift Every Voice" by featured guest entertainer, Ms. Reeny Smith. This young lady hails from North Preston has been blessed with a remarkable voice and returned to sing later in the program to gain a standing ovation from the appreciative audience.

Ms. Anne Simmons, Black Cultural Society Board Member and resides in North Preston gave official greetings on behalf of BCS President Dr. Les Oliver. Two students, Miss Mahalia Smith and Miss Amtifah Johnson-MacDonald of Nelson Whynder Elementary School who were both featured in the exhibit paintings gave a wonderful little speeches of what this experience meant to them.

Ms. Dale Sheppard, of Art Gallery Nova Scotia gave remarks on their behalf and expressed the satisfaction of working with the BCC staff and this historic partnership.

Susan Tooke , the award winning artist gave emotional words of appreciation and was very pleased to be welcomed by the community in this endeavour, she called it a labour of love.

Shauntay Grant made an emotional yet powerful plea for all to find their voice in life's journey and be all you can be to those around you as a positive role model

The closing was a uplifting musical and vocal tribute by Ms. Reeny Smith accompanied by her father , Deacon Wallace Smith Jr. & mom, Mrs. Maureen Smith to all in attendance.

The exhibit will be on available to view until December so please come on down.

President's Corner

Dr. Leslie H. Oliver



September is an exciting month at the Black Cultural Centre – ever since the Centre opened its doors in September, 1983 the Society has used September to start of our year. Every fall we see thousands of students return to schools, colleges and universities across the province and we hope that we can support them in developing a healthy view of their history, heritage and potential. This is a great time for each of us to take time to encourage a student as they engage in their preparation for life. It's refreshing when the centre's school educational programs restart after a summer focussed on educating tourists.

The Society's Annual General Meeting gave us a chance to meet, review the past year and think about moving into the next year. The Centre is constantly under pressure to make do with insufficient money to carry out many programs that could be rewarding for our mission. This year was no different. However, careful management by our staff enabled us to get most of our necessary tasks done and complete the fiscal year having recovered from the previous year's deficit. Another positive note at the AGM was the report of a 49% increase in membership this year.

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President's Corner continued

The board elections resulted in electing 18 directors, 13 who were currently completing terms on the board and 5 who are new to the board. These volunteers on our Board contribute precious time, skill and energy to carry on the business of the Society. We are blessed to have elected the following people to our board: new directors Roger Beals, Cheryl Byard, Beatrice Douglas, Carolyn Fowler and Greg Nazaire and the returning re-elected board members: Denise Allen, Twila Grosse, Theresa Halfkenny, Bernadette Hamilton Reid, Sarah Hayward, Rita Jardine, Alma Johnston, Brian Johnson, Victor Jones, Leslie Oliver, Lorraine Reddick, Anne Simmons and Pat Skinner. An effort will be made to fill the remaining empty board positions.

Profiles of African Kings & Queens

Makeda - "The Queen of Sheba" (960 B.C.)



Makeda - "The Queen of Sheba" (960 B.C.) - The identity of the Queen of Sheba has long been an issue of debate. However, there are several indications that she was indeed the Ethiopian queen, Makeda.

According to Ethiopian folklore, the Merchant Prince, Jarmin, returned from trading in Israel with glowing reports of the wisdom of the great King Solomon. Makeda was so fascinated with the tales of the Judan monarch, she assembled an extravagant caravan laden with a cargo of lavish gifts. An abundance of gold and spices made Ethiopian a vibrant trade

center. With gifts such as these, Makeda set out on a sojourn to pay homage to Solomon. Upon meeting, the king and queen were equally intrigued with one another. She admired his great knowledge; he her grace and intelligence. Fondness grew into love and their union produced Menelik I, from whom history's longest line of royalty descends. Returning to Ethiopia, Makeda spread the Judist philosophy she learned from Solomon. Her influence transcends centuries as this Judeo-Christian tradition remains imbedded in modern Ethiopian culture and society. Thus is the legend of Makeda, the Biblical figure recognized as the Queen of Sheba.

Thutmose III, Pharaoh of Egypt (1504 - 1450 B.C.)



Thutmose III, Pharaoh of Egypt, 1504 - 1450 B.C. Thutmose III was a member of one of the greatest families in the history of African royalty. A family which laid the basis for the 18th Dynasty of ancient Egypt. But it was his family which also was the source of his greatest frustration. Thutmose always believed that he should have come to power before his sister, Hatshepsut, and was angry over this for most of his life. Ironically, though it was the assignments she gave him which not only helped in his rise to power, but also helped him learn and understand the responsibilities of his royal position. He eventually overcame his anger to become one of the most important Pharaohs in Egyptian history. A man who will be remembered as a great warrior who strengthened the sovereignty of Egypt and extended its influence into Western Asia.

Recent Donors & New Members

New Members

Gregory Nazaire
Jeremy Blackburn
Noel Knockwood
Dr. Anthony Stewart
Michael Haugulty
Isaac Saney
Sylvia Losier
Tola Afolabi
Jadye Tynes

*Thank You For
Your Support !*

Join Us !

Become A Member of the
Black Cultural Society / Centre

Freedom Stone Launch

Thursday October 15, 2009
Black Cultural Centre
1149 Main Street, Dartmouth, NS
All Welcome

Annual Christmas Concert

Saturday December 12, 2009
7pm Black Cultural Centre
1149 Main Street, Dartmouth, NS
Tickets: \$10.00 Adults / \$5.00 Students

Call us for details

1-800-465-0767

www.bccns.com

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