

HAPPENINGS IN THE HOUSE

Harambee House News

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2008

A Note from the Editor...



Welcome to the first issue of "Happenings in the House" the Harambee House Newsletter. As a staff we are extremely excited about this publication because it has been a long time in the making. As a new student

worker at the house and the editor of the newsletter, I too am excited about the possibilities that this publication could create. Through it, our hope is to make Harambee House more accessible to the entire Wellesley Community, past and present. To accomplish this, our objective is two- fold: first, to share what events are taking place in the house and second, to facilitate a relationship between the House staff and the students, alumnae, and faculty of African descent. So, I sincerely hope you enjoy this issue!

Warmest Regards,
Joy Clarke '11

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH RECAP

Throughout the month of February, Harambee House celebrated Black History Month with a multitude of events ranging from lectures to movie nights. All in all the month was a success as we looked at Black history through the arts.

Some highlights included: a month long art exhibit featuring local as well as student artists, a week long showing of "Roots" the acclaimed television mini-series based on Alex Haley's award-winning novel. The showing of "Roots" was accompanied by a lecture by LeVar Burton, who starred in "Roots" as Kunta Kinte in 1977. The lecture was extremely well attended by the entire Wellesley College community in Collins Cinema and followed by a lively reception at Harambee.



Harambee House Staff with LeVar Burton

2/20/08

The week before hosting LeVar Burton, Harambee House had the pleasure of greeting this year's Ethos Quintessence Day Speaker, activist, writer Elaine Brown with a reception at the house following her thrilling lecture. The month finished with two showings of the Brazilian film "City of God". ❖

See photos of these events on page 2

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Victoria Allison '10, Q-day Chair and Elaine



Elaine Brown with student Makkah Ali '10



Rebecca Amponsah '08 poses with LeVar Burton in front of her artwork

From the Director's Desk

We are having a very busy semester here in Harambee House. Black History Month in February featured the showing of the mini-series "Roots" capped by a very well attended talk by LeVar Burton. Mr. Burton was a very gracious guest, posing for many pictures with students in Harambee House.

Another recent special event here at the College was the visit by Harry Belafonte, this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial lecturer. Mr. Belafonte gave a terrific talk on the topic, "Social Justice: Within and Beyond Our Borders." Harambee House was buzzing with the many guests who came to the reception following the talk.

Now our attention is turning to the upcoming Ethos' 40th Anniversary celebration, April 4th and 5th. I have been working with the Ethos co-presidents and an alumnae committee to plan the panels, discussion sessions and the gala that will cap the event. Our panel discussants will include the original founders of Ethos, Alecia DeCoudreaux, Chair of Wellesley's Board of Trustees, Kim Bottomly and other members of the administration. The celebration will be capped by a dinner gala. The excitement level is high and we're thrilled at the great response from alumnae who will be traveling from all over the U.S. to come back to celebrate with their Ethos sisters. If you haven't yet registered to attend, please do so at www.wellesley.edu/Harambee.

For the past two years, Harambee House has hosted an awards dinner to recognize students of African descent for their academic, artistic, and athletic and community service achievements. This year, we are pleased to start a new collaboration with the Latina advisor and extend the awards to include our Latina sisters in the 3rd annual Academic Excellence Awards ceremony. The event will be held in Tishman Commons in the Wang Campus Center on May 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Of course, the capstone event of the spring has to be commencement. What a joy it will be when seniors, their families, friends, faculty and staff gather together in Harambee House on May 29th for the Senior Reception. Congratulations to our seniors!

As we plan and prepare for all these upcoming events, we also pause to take a moment to enjoy the spring. Although the weather is not always sunny, if you look closely, you'll see the new plants emerging from the softening ground, buds swelling on our lovely bushes and even the sounds of birds doing a call and response high in the trees around Clapp Library. Spring is just about here. Enjoy!

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE A STORY?

Let Harambee House and the students of African descent know!

Tell us what is going on in your life! If you want to submit a blurb or story for the next issue of "Happenings in the House" please contact the editor, Joy Clarke '11 at jclarke@wellesley.edu or call the house (781) 283-2133. We love to hear from you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HARRY BELAFONTE LECTURE AND RECEPTION

TISHMAN COMMONS AND HARAMBEE HOUSE

MARCH 11, 2008

7-9PM

HARAMBEE HOUSE WILL BE HOSTING A RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE LECTURE IN TISHMAN COMMONS.

MENTORING MATCH UP!

HARAMBEE HOUSE

MARCH 18, 2008

7-10PM

A MIXER BETWEEN CURRENT WELLESLEY SOPHOMORES AND BLACK WELLESLEY ALUMNAE MATCH UP FOR THE NEW MENTORING PROGRAM!

ETHOS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HARAMBEE HOUSE

APRIL 4-5, 2008

SEE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

HARAMBEE HOUSE WILL BE HOSTING VARIOUS EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND. PLEASE REFER TO THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR SPECIFIC TIMES.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CELEBRATION

HARAMBEE HOUSE

MAY 1, 2008

7-9PM

TBA.

SENIOR RECEPTION

HARAMBEE HOUSE

MAY 29, 2008

7- 10PM

HARAMBEE HOUSE CELEBRATES THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2008 AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH A NIGHT OF FUN AND MEMORIES.

Carol's Corner

Hello, I am Carol Estridge, Assistant to the Director of Harambee House. I am the first person you meet as you walk in the door. It is always wonderful to welcome all to Harambee House. I have worked in Harambee House since 1998. When I started to work at Wellesley College in Harambee the Director was Rachel Beverly. In 2000, however, Harambee changed directors and Kelly Brown took on the position. In 2005, Angela Carpenter, became the new Director as well as a Class Dean.

Since coming to Harambee, I have offered the spirit of giving and in return have been grateful for the opportunity to spend time with many wonderful young women moving through Wellesley College. Over the years, I have seen young women who run from one pressing task and obligation to the next, checking items off their endless "to-do" list, never feeling like they get to the fun stuff, 'cause (oops!) – you didn't include any. The majority of the women who come through Harambee are busy as a bee.

My thought is: the greatest gift we can give ourselves is ourselves, and the only way we can truly do this is by sharing our time. At Harambee, we have shared our time with many celebrities such as Whoopi Goldberg, Sista Souljah, Marian Wright Edelman, Queen Latifah, Toni Morrison, Julian Bond, Elaine Brown, Harry Belafonte and many others. But more importantly, I would like to thank each of you for sharing your time with me.

STUDENT WORKER SPOTLIGHT... ON OUR SENIORS!



Rebecca Amponsah '08 (top right) is a Spanish and Architecture double major from Little Rock, Arkansas. In 2007, she studied abroad in Spain. On campus, she is a member of Ethos and the Graceful Harmony Gospel Choir.

Dominique Parris '08 (top left) is International Relations -Political Science major from Willow Grove, PA. In 2007, she studied abroad in Amsterdam. On campus, she is the CG MAC and a member of the Wellesley Widows. She is currently looking for jobs in the non-profit sector that focus on women's empowerment in the developing world.

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Rebecca Amponsah writes...

My, oh, my does time fly...

As a first-year in 2004, I remember searching, countless hours, for jobs on campus. Due to not yet being acquainted with the "Wendy Wellesley" way of doing things, I realized I had not quite grasped the concept of FirstClass. As a result, the thought of fulfilling "work-study" dwindled before my eyes.

Well, two years later a spot was granted to me in Harambee House as a student staff worker. Two student workers were going abroad and they needed an extra set of hands.

Harambee House has been and is a blessing in my life. It has provided me with exciting, new resources and opportunities. It is a place where I have developed my social skills, activated and put my artistic passions to use, shared memorable experiences with my Harambee House family, and a place I consider home. Forever and always will Harambee hold a special place in my heart. HA-RAM-BEE!

Dominique Parris writes...

It is hard to believe that what began as a simple quest for an on-campus job, has turned into such a definitive part of my college experience. I am positive that I would not have made it this far if it were not for the encouragement, support, joy, and sisterhood that I have shared right here in Harambee House.

To the classes of 2009, 2010 and 2011, I hope that will not let the incredible support network that Harambee House offers go to waste and that you will use it to achieve your dreams. In this house I have seen my peers overcome obstacles of every size; I have seen them surprise themselves with their own strength and intelligence; I have seen them rise above.

My dear underclasswomen, may you grow and succeed beyond your wildest dreams, and may you learn, as I did that even when you are far from home, you will always be with family in Harambee House.

JUST FOR FUN: MEET THE STAFF!

Match the correct fact with the correct staffer. Look for answers in the next

1. I am about to graduate! ____
2. Skydiving is a great adrenaline rush! ____
3. I think cookies and cream is the best! ____
4. I grew up in the same town as Denzell! ____
5. I put hot sauce on everything! ____



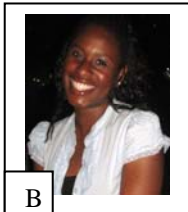
A



E



C



B



D

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS ISSUE! LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS ON

OUR WEBSITE: WWW.WELLESLEY.EDU/HARAMBEE.

UNTIL NEXT TIME...HA-RAM-BEE! HA-RAM-BEE!! HA-RAM-BEE!!!

