



*"Putting the Pieces Together for the Sake of Our Children"*

## ETU Community School Newsletter

"Keeping Youth Alive & Free"  
February 2007

### Celebrate African Heritage

*A Word From the Founder Nzinga Oneferua El*

#### Know Thyself!

Our illustrious Ancestors thousands of years ago left us a profound statement that is still very much applicable today, "Man, Know Thyself". When an entire people are separated from the most illustrious historical contributions of their nation to civilization we can understand why today, contemporary youth are very confused about who they are and the important role their Ancestors have played in history. Dr. Cater G. Woodson penned a classic book with a case study of the then called "Negro". It was acknowledged at that time that the, "*Miseducation of the Negro* was deliberate and by design. Naim Akbar renowned psychologist and author wrote, "Miseducation is the root of the problems of the masses of people. If the masses of the people were given correct knowledge from the very beginning, we would not be in the condition that we find ourselves in today".

He further stated, "Miseducation in its foundation is the cultivation of an alien identity. When people are taught that they are somebody who they are not, then this forms the basis of being miseducated" "An effective education system must be rooted in the valid identity of its students" (2001).

Dr. Woodson was prophetic when he stated,

When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his "proper place" and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary".

As a community it is our responsibility to properly educate our children and offer them exposure to the greatness of the African culture from which all humanity emanates. There is no need to bring out the facts in the shortest month of the year only; however, there is a need to integrate the truth about the history of African people that did not start with slavery, in all aspects of our educational process daily.

### Featured Article

**Zen's Accounting Service** is a full service accounting firm, in existence for over twenty years. Offering all kind of business and personal accounting and tax needs, such as financial statements, audits, any kind of tax return or tax issue. Also specializing in handling Internal Revenue Service problems and representations.

#### Tax Tips:

1) Gather all your tax papers and make sure you have all your W-2s and 1099misc forms. Check the forms for name and social security number errors. Additionally organize and total items where appropriate. This can save you tax preparation fees.

2) Be careful about using tax software. If it is a very basic return it's OK. Anything else is not recommended because without tax knowledge you are more likely to compute the tax incorrectly.

Zen's Accounting Service is committed to the community through various organizations, The Greater

Let's make this a priority for 2007 starting with our own circle of youth, family and community. Our forward motion depends on it.

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## Violence Prevention Summit



Youth violence is a widespread problem in the United States but it has proven to be an even more alarming problem in Baltimore City. Students at Lake Clifton Campus are preparing to address this issue in their own way, by holding a student/youth led violence prevention summit in April 2007. With the help of community members, parents, administrators and others students will be able to voice grievances, address biases, publicize needs and build relationships.

Solutions to address the growing number of violent incidents among youth will also be provided. In fact, National Street Soldier Consortium member, Nzinga Oneferua El, will introduce a national youth/gang violence prevention model called Street Soldiers. If you are a young person, parent educator, or community member interested in sponsoring or willing to lend your support and ideas to help the youth plan for this event please call (410)235-2846 to join the committee.

Baltimore Chapter of The National Council For Negro Women, New Unity Church Ministries, and the ETU.

As a partner of the ETU Community School, the firm is committed to educating and training of students and families with financial literacy. Zens Accounting is part of the fundraising committee. As an independent talk show host, Zen Jones Smith was responsible for training students to conduct professional interviews.

Students had an opportunity to demonstrate these skills at the Street Soldiers National Conference in Birmingham Alabama November 2006. Youth interviewed various conference participants including actor Kokeem Woodbine and civil rights legend Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery.

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omega boys club

STREET SOLDIERS

## EYE for Change Conference



The ETU Community School Coordinating Council has pooled its resources to sponsor 100 students from Lake Clifton Campus to attend the EYE for Change Conference April 5, 2007 at Morgan State University. EYE, Engaging Youth Entrepreneurs, for Change is an annual youth entrepreneurship conference. It is used as a vehicle to encourage youth and those working with youth to engage in entrepreneurial skill building, strategy implementation, and networking. For more information on the EYE for Change Conference visit [www.edacmorgan.com](http://www.edacmorgan.com)

## Heritage High School: Heritage Project

The Heritage Project is off and running. What is the Heritage Project? Heritage High School has embarked on an activity designed to bring more meaning to the word "heritage." As African Americans, we have a rich heritage of "accomplishment" in the face of opposition; of "overcoming" in the face of obstacles; of "achievement" in the face of unfairness. Our children-the present generation of high schoolers-have insufficient connection to this rich heritage.

For sure, they recognize the faces of many African Americans of long ago-Sojourner Truth, Harriett Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and the like. In our more recent history, they know of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the "I Have a Dream Speech and of Malcolm X, one of the black community's most well-known black nationalist. The names and faces of countless African Americans of note are readily accessible in print and other media and should be-we should learn about ourselves as a people.

However, "heritage" is actually closer than we think. What about our own grandparents? What about the senior citizens in our neighborhoods, or in our churches, and, of course, in our own households. What is their story? This is what the Heritage Project is all about-making connections with the people who are still with us, close by, with a story to tell.

Our students will be engaged in a series of interviews with individuals at least 50 years of age. Some may be well-known in our community but most will not be. They will tell our students their individual stories and the students will make a permanent record of the conversations. Students have developed the questions, e.g., What was it like when you were my age? What significant events affected you individually? What advice would you offer our generation?

These individual records will be compiled in a book, complete with pictures of the subjects and the students. The book will be entitled "The Heritage Project, Volume One." The most important aspect of this exercise is the opportunity to hear from those individuals who are "close by" and to come to the realization that "heritage" is not some far off place that is untouchable and unchangeable, but that heritage is alive and well and continuing. And, that while we may not be able to change history, we can certainly change our connection to it and our involvement in it.

Perhaps through this exercise, the students will come to realize that they, too, are a part of this thing called "heritage" and will want to be focused on that which will lift us up as individuals and as a people instead of that which will tear us down. Perhaps we will be more inclined to bring honor to our rich heritage instead of dishonor.

This is the essence of The Heritage Project. Please note as well that we want to make it clear that we recognize that all ethnic groups have a "heritage" that should be honored and respected.

If you would like to support this project in anyway, contact Ms. April Jones or Ms. Heather Bradley, Heritage High School , 2801 St. Lo Drive, Baltimore , Maryland 21213, 410-396-6637/38/39.

**The Heritage High School Creed:** *We must demonstrate by our attitudes and our actions today that the struggle, the sacrifice, and the suffering of yesterday were not in vain!*

## Community Announcements



### Need GED or Know Someone who Does?

ETU Community School in partnership with Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) is offering GED classes at the Lake Clifton Campus. Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30pm-8:30pm in the ETU suite. Enrollment is still open and classes are free.

Sign up today by calling (410) 235-2846!

### Money Power Day!

If you are a Baltimore City resident or worker, don't miss this landmark opportunity to have one on one financial counseling and support. Free Services:

- Have your taxes prepared for no cost!
- Understand your credit report!
- Get advice on how to: buy a house, save for college, reduce debt and fix credit, and invest for your future.

- Receive information and services from over 40 local companies and service providers!
- Bring your children along and they can learn about saving too!

## **Saturday, February 24, 2007 11am-3pm Free Admission**

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute  
1400 W Cold Spring Lane  
Baltimore, MD  
[Money Power Day](#)  
Call (410) 487-7655 for more info

## **ETU Community School Coordinating Council Meeting**

The ETU Coordinating Council is made up of students, parents, teachers, principals, community organizations and community leaders who care about and want to positively impact the future of the students who attend Heritage and Doris M. Johnson High Schools. Join us at the next ETU Community School Coordinating Council meeting scheduled for 1pm on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at Lake Clifton Campus 2801 St Lo Drive. Can't make the meeting this month? See remaining schedule of monthly meetings for Spring 2007 below.

All meetings will take place at 1pm at ETU Community School located at Lake Clifton Campus 2801 St Lo Drive Baltimore, MD 21213.

Wednesday, Mar 7, 2007  
Wednesday, Apr 4, 2007  
Wednesday, May 9, 2007

## **SAFE, Inc and SAFE Healing Foundation, Inc to Launch New Website**

The parent companies of ETU afterschool program and Community School, SAFE, Inc and SAFE Healing Foundation, will launch its new websites on Monday, February 19, 2007. Be the first to experience the new and improved sites at [SAFE, Inc](#) and [SAFE Healing Foundation, Inc](#).

## **Youth Corner: Why Am I Here?**



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