

**Greetings Family:**

**Junior-Jawara Blake & The Village Square Collective present Ashra & Merira Kwesi to lecture on the destruction and reconnection of "Cultural Continuity" of Afrikan people and the importance of this critical component in every aspect of our existence.**

Ashra Kwesi and Merira Kwesi are lecturers on African history, civilization, religion and culture. They present lively and dynamic slide presentation productions and videos based on their extensive study and travel on the African continent. Their startling and revealing information on the African origin of many of the concepts and symbols now utilized by the western world is due to their focus on the ancient African Nile Valley. These national and international lecturers also conduct the annual Kemet Nu (Black People) "Know Thyself" Educational Tours to Egypt and Ethiopia. Brother and Sister Kwesi link the historical with the present by means of visual documentation to bring "our story" to life.

**Dr. Sunyatta Amen** *- is a Naturopathic Physician with a mission to teach the world how to live a natural, sexy life through movement. Dr. Amen, who grew up in a family of traditional healers, wanted to share with others the healing methods of movement while finding a holistic way to carry on the family tradition.*

*With Dr. Sunyatta's philosophy of Movement As Medicine*

*TM, she shares her knowledge of healthy movement to the world. Through the ancient art forms of belly dance and her signature Sexual Tai Chi and Sexual Kung Fu, the charismatic Dr. Sunyatta teaches that movement, both external and internal, are keys to vibrant health. “The minute people start moving they feel energetic, refreshed and renewed,” stated Dr. Sunyatta. In addition to teaching the sways, shimmies and undulations of belly dance from her MamaSita Cultural Center in Washington D.C., Dr. Sunyatta travels the world teaching the many art forms of healing movement. These forms are made up of ancient exercises that focus on restoring and revitalizing the body’s core and reproductive system by focusing on internal muscle strengthening.*

*With the integration of good dietary guidelines and movement, Dr. Sunyatta has helped thousands of women heal womb issues such as fibroids, cysts, long menstrual cycles, and fertility issues without surgery or drugs. Dr. Sunyatta’s signature classes include Womb Yoga, Sensual Tai Chi, Sexual Kung Fu, Funk Yoga and Belly Dancehall.*

*Dr. Sunyatta also teaches a culinary favorite called Kama Sutra Kitchen. Her holistic approach to men’s health issues is unparalleled and addresses prostate issues, erectile dysfunction and sexual health with optimal health solutions via Sexual Kung Fu.*

*In 2002, Dr. Sunyatta founded the Belly Dancers of Color Association (BOCA) a non-profit organization with the*

*mission to broaden awareness of the roots of Belly Dance and various forms of cultural movement. Each year Dr. Sunyatta produces The MamaSita Movement and Wellness Expo, the largest world dance festival of it's kind in the U.S. Dr. Sunyatta has produced the best selling DVD titled Moor Hips and is the author of the soon to be released World's Sexiest Cookbook.*

*Zeze Lusane - is one of Washington, DC's premier dancer, teacher, and professional performer of Brazilian samba. Originally from Sao Paulo, Brazil, she is a former Queen of the Carnival of the Unidos do Peruche samba school, and also appeared on Brazilian television. Zeze has danced professionally in Brazil and all over the United States for more than 15 years in a wide variety of venues including universities, clubs, embassies, and private social affairs and events. She also co-hosts the highly popular radio show "Sounds of Brazil" on WPFW-FM in Washington, DC. The show reaches a global audience and has worked closely with the Brazilian embassy and the local Brazilian and Latin communities.*

*The Meditations - International Reggae Group - first formed as a group in the mid-seventies following the breakup of the Linkers. Led by Ansel Cridland, The Linkers had made a series of recordings in the late sixties, including the classic, "Nyah Man Story." About 1971, Danny Clarke and Winston Watson recorded several titles for Lee Perry's Upsetter label individually and as the duo, 'Flames.' Ansel and Danny first began working together informally about 1972, with Winston joining them soon after. Inspired by a love of the Impressions, the group began to develop a vocal blend that would bring them international respect.*

*The Meditations cut a number of important 45s for producers in Jamaica as early as 1974. However, a series of recordings for Federal Records in the mid-seventies led to the release of the group's first album, "Message From The Meditations," in 1976 and a second, "Wake Up," in 1977. Rightly regarded as classics today, these two albums established the Meditations as one of reggae finest vocal groups. These seminal recordings opened the door to live appearances in the US and Bermuda in 1977, and brought*

*them to the attention of Bob Marley.*

*The Meditations began working full time as Marley's harmony trio, recording with producer Lee Perry. Together they recorded the classics "Rastaman Live Up," "Blackman Redemption" and "Punky Reggae Party." In April 1978, the Meditations opened the historic One Love Peace Concert for Marley, at the National Stadium in Kingston. They also released singles that year on Marley's Tuff Gong label and Perry's Black Art label in Jamaica. In 1979, they began to work on the album "Guidance," with the Wailers for Island Records. However, that agreement was never signed and today that album can be heard on "Reggae Crazy," (Nighthawk CD-317). 'Reggae Crazy' anthologizes fifteen Meditations titles from 1971- 1979, selected by Ansel Cridland for this CD.*

*Throughout the eighties, the Meditations continued to record and perform. They released the album "No More Friend" in 1983, on Greensleeves Records, and a Greatest Hits package in 1984 for Shanachie. In 1988, Heartbeat released "For The Good Of Man," an album of new recordings and in 1994 that label issued "Deeper Roots – The Best of The Meditations," collecting titles from the first two albums on CD.*

*Of all the groups that came out of the fertile seventies reggae-scene in Jamaica, the Meditations, perhaps more than any other group, set the standard for sheer vocal*

*virtuosity. Each is an experienced lead singer having performed and recorded as soloists and in other groups, throughout the decades since the sixties. The group survived a breakup in the mid-eighties and went on to reunite in 1993, when they recorded "Return of The Meditations."*

**Ainsley Burrows - Spoken Word Artist** - In the midst of a "poetic renaissance", Ainsley Burrows, a self published poet, spoken word artist, and musician, stands out in the crowd. At the tender age of 25, Burrows has established himself as an accomplished spoken word artist, a universal poet, and a talented musician.

Ainsley's dreams of becoming a literary icon was stalled by his feeling of making a 'smart' career choice. Prior to his revelation for a writing career, Kinsley was pursuing a career in the financial industry and receiving a Bachelors degree in Accounting was one of the steps taken.

Later, he began graduate work in an MBA program. It was in his first year of graduate school that Burrows decided he could no longer deny his passion for writing.

He had began writing for the university paper early in his college career, performing some of his early works of poetry, and formed a band called Vertical 8. His performances became popular and Ainsley soon began touring the local colleges. After an almost fatal car accident, Burrows realized that writing was his calling, and left business school to pursue writing full time. The energy put into his literary career gave birth to a remarkable, self-published book of poetry entitled, "Black Angels with sky blue feathers", and a debut album of spoken word called "Cataclysm".

"Black Angels with sky blue feathers", is a collection of poems that embraces the soul, it is expressed in an articulate fashion true poetry lovers can appreciate. The book begins its Literary genesis with a poem untitled, "A Rose in Harlem", depicting a woman with a soul and spirit as deep as Harlem itself, and concludes with a piece called "Notes on my piano", giving insight into Burrows' philosophy on life. "I am a mere chronicler of the stories that I see in the eyes of these victims of time. I see their hurt. I write about them and their pain in order to understand myself, and my pain." Derived from "Black Angels with blue sky feathers", his debut album, "Cataclysm", a combination of spoken word and musical artistry. It gives

poetry and music lovers a feeling of having cake and eating it, too, as one listens to the poetry that is fluid, passionate and complex, enhanced with music that strengthens its delivery. Each song takes you on a musical, inspirational journey that allows you to bear witness to the depth of Ainsley Burrows' genius.

Ainsley resides in New York and is currently working on his first novel.

***Yogi Laser - Contortionist*** - Through proper exercise, breathing, relaxation, diet, positive thinking and meditation, Yogi Laser has created a lifestyle, which allows him to perform advanced yoga as entertainment all over the world.

Internationally and nationally known as a yogi-contortionist extraordinaire, he wiggles and writhes his muscular physique into and out of seemingly impossible yoga postures.

The contortion act is a graphic visual of unimaginable physical possibilities exhibiting meditative concentration, flexibility, self-awareness and inner strength.

All this and more for only \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. Discounted Family Packages

**LIVE BROADCAST ON WVIP-93.5 FM - "THE MEETING IN THE AFRIKAN VILLAGE SQUARE" - 12 MIDNIGHT - 3:00 AM**

**Date- September 13, 2008**

**Location-2052 Cross Bronx Expressway (Betw Gleason & Olmstead Aves)**

**Time-Doors open at 6:30 pm (7:00 pm-4:00 am)**

**Cost-Advance Tix--\$40/ Door-\$50**

**Family packages - children under 10 -Free /10-15 yrs-\$15 /15-18 yrs - \$25**

**Seniors - Discount/Free**

**Children under 10 Free**

**\*\*\*\*\*Raffles/Giveaways/Door Prizes\*\*\*\*\***

**Nuff love & respect**

**Village Square Collective**

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