

Author Pavilion - Friday September 25th



Nika C. Beamon author of *I Didn't Work this Hard Just to Get Married Successful Single Black Women Speak Out*

It's a startling fact: Most American women spend more of their adult lives unmarried than married.

Currently a Writer/Producer for WABC-TV Eyewitness News in New York; the number station in the country. In her fifteen years as a journalist, she has worked at various television stations including, WABU-TV in Boston, ESPN Classic and WABC-TV in New York. She also served as Coordinating Producer for "Like It Is with Gil Noble," the country's longest running African American public affairs show, airing on WABC-TV.



Deborah Gregory author of *Catwalk (Young Adult Series)*

For Gregory, a best-selling author who created and penned the 16-book Cheetah Girls book series and award-winning writer who had contributed to *Essence*, *Redbook*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Vibe* and *More*, survival was crucial. Homeless on the sidewalks of Brooklyn at age 3 with her single mother and two sisters, Gregory was separated from her family and became a ward of the State. She spent her childhood in the New York City foster care system under ACS until she aged out of the system at 18. Upon becoming a journalist, in 1990 she spent a large portion of her career searching for the mother who was committed and piecing together the puzzle of her early years and a painful family legacy.



Congresswoman Barbara Lee author of *Renegade for Peace and Justice*

Congresswoman Barbara Lee's willingness to stand on principle earned her unsolicited international attention when she was the only member of congress to vote against a resolution giving President George Bush virtually unlimited authority to wage war against unspecified nations, unspecified organizations, and unspecified individuals for an unspecified period of time in the wake of the horrific events of 9-11. Some praised her vote opposing this blank check to use force as heroic and inspirational; others called for her death.

In addition to being one of congress' most vocal opponents to the war in Iraq, Lee has been a leader in promoting policies that foster international peace, security and human rights and for low income and communities of

color and the poor. Her principled stands include disavowing the doctrine of preemptive war, offering legislation to address the HIV-AIDS pandemic and helping to lead the bipartisan effort in congress to end the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan.



Lyah Beth LeFlore author of *Wildflowers A Novel*

A National Bestselling author, *Lyah Beth LeFlore* has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Essence Magazine*, *Ebony*, *Jet*, and *Entertainment Weekly*; also on CNN and BET. Television Producer credits include: *New York Undercover* (FOX), *Midnight Mac* starring Bernie Mac (HBO), and *Grown Ups* (UPN). She has worked at major networks and production companies such as Nickelodeon, Uptown Entertainment/Universal, Wolf Films/Universal, and Alan Haymon Productions. She began her career at the Nickelodeon Network. Books include the coauthored, *Cosmopolitan Girls*; the *Essence* Bestseller *Last Night A DJ Saved My Life*; and the *NY Times* Bestseller and *Essence* Bestseller, *I Got Your Back: A Father and Son Keep It Real About Love, Fatherhood, Family, and Friendship* -- the non-fiction collaboration



Farai Chideya author of *Kiss The Sky*

Farai Chideya has combined media, technology, and social justice during her 20-year career as an award-winning author and journalist. From 2006 to early 2009, she hosted NPR's News and Notes, a daily national program about African-American and African diaspora issues. She and the teams she has worked with have won awards including a National Education Reporting Award, a North Star News Prize, and a special award from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association for coverage of AIDS.

She has written three nonfiction books: *Trust: Reaching the 100 Million Missing Voters*; *The Color of Our Future*; and *Don't Believe the Hype: Fighting Cultural Misinformation About African Americans*. All are taught on college campuses across the country, and *The Color of Our Future* has found an increasingly broad audience as America has become more diverse (and Americans more aware of our collective diversity). Her novel *Kiss the Sky* (Atria Books; May 2009) is *Essence Magazine's* book club selection for May 2009.



JD Mason author of *That Devil's No Friend of Mine*

JD Mason is the bestselling author of *One Day I Saw A Black King* and *This Fire Down in My Soul*. *That Devil's No Friend of Mine* is her latest release.



Kamau and Akilah Butler author of *The Love Ethic: The Reason Why You Can't Find and Keep Beautiful Black Love*

Akilah has been featured in *Black Enterprise Magazine*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Essence Magazine*, and *The New York Times* for her outstanding community work. In addition, she has received the "Oscars of youth activism", the "Do Something" Brick Award (1998) and an *Essence Award* (2001) for her accomplishments. *Akilah* has been featured on numerous television broadcasts such as *CNN* and *Good Day*

Atlanta. Moreover, *Akilah* represented the US in 1995 during the 4th World Women's Conference in Beijing, China and in 2000 during the national activist international exchange program in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr. Butler is a member of the American Evaluation Association and the National Association of Social Workers. *Kamau* is a much sought after consultant and conducts various trainings locally and nationally on communication, volunteer recruitment, grammar and writing and conflict resolution. He is a certified leadership and cultural diversity trainer and also a certified group facilitator.



Katie McCabe, co-author of *Justice Older than the Law: the Life of Dovey Johnson Roundtree*

Washington writer *Katie McCabe* is the author of the National Magazine Award-winning story that was the basis for HBO's acclaimed film *Something the Lord Made*, winner of the 2004 Emmy and 2005 Peabody Awards. Her *Washingtonian* profile of *Dovey Roundtree* won the 2003 Dateline Award for Feature Writing from the Society of Professional Journalists.



Michelle Gourdine M.D. moderator for *Emerging Leaders Panel Mind Readers: Mental Health, Wellness, and Self-Help* sponsored by AstraZeneca.

Dr. Michelle Gourdine is CEO of Michelle Gourdine and Associates LLC, a health policy consulting firm dedicated to creating a health care system in which all people benefit equally. Because she believes in the right of every human being to be healthy, her firm places special emphasis on improving the health of under-served communities. The former Deputy Secretary of Health for the state of Maryland, Dr. Gourdine's career in medicine and public health leadership has spanned nearly 20 years. A board-certified Pediatrician and graduate of the Johns Hopkins Univ. School of Medicine, Dr.

Gourdine is Clinical Asst. Professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology/Preventive Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and a Senior Associate in Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She is authoring the upcoming book, *Reclaiming Our Health: A Step by Step Guide to African American Wellness*.



Jeff Johnson author of *Everything I'm Not Made Me Everything I Am*

Jeff Johnson is the host of BET's *The Truth with Jeff Johnson*, and a weekly commentator on the nationally syndicated *Tom Joyner Morning Show*. Johnson's interviews truly "represent" 21st-century America — showcasing grass-roots organizers to major world figures. A frequent guest and commentator for

national media including MSNBC's *Dayside* and *Hardball* with Chris Matthews, CNN, Fox News Channel, huffingpost.com, CNN.com, TheRoot.com, and EbonyJet.com, Johnson won a 2008 NABJ Salute to Excellence Award for BET's "Life & Death in Darfur, Jeff Johnson Reports" series. He lives in Washington, D.C.



Michael Taylor – *A New Conversation with Men*

Michael Taylor is President & CEO of Creation Publishing Group. He is a self educated entrepreneur, author, personal coach and radio show host. He has been facilitating workshops and seminars for over fifteen years and he has inspired thousands through his books, seminars and radio program. He is a proud father of three grown children, is happily married and resides in Houston, Texas. In his spare time he enjoys, computers, writing, reading, watching movies and listening to old school 70's & 80's funk and soul music.



Cornel West author of *Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud -- A Memoir*

Educator and philosopher *Cornel West* is the Class of 1943 University Professor at Princeton University. Known as one of America's most gifted, provocative, and important public intellectuals, he is the author of the contemporary classic *Race Matters*, which changed the course of America's dialogue on race and justice, and the New York Times bestseller *Democracy Matters*. He is the recipient of the American Book Award and holds more than 20 honorary degrees. His memoir, *Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud* will be published in October 2009 by SmileyBooks.



Janis F. Kearney author of *Something to Write Home About: Memories from a Presidential Diarist*

Author, Book Publisher, and Presidential Diarist Janis F. Kearney is best known for her award-winning memoir *Cotton Field of Dreams*, and her second book, *Conversations: William Jefferson Clinton...from Hope to Harlem*, a presidential oral biography, published in 2006 by her micropublishing company, Writing our World Press.

At 36, Kearney became one of the country's youngest female newspaper publishers, when she purchased the award-winning Arkansas State Press Newspaper from civil rights legend Daisy Gatson Bates. From 1995 through 2001, she served in the historical role of Personal Diarist to President William Jefferson Clinton.

On Saturday, September 25th, the former journalist will discuss her second memoir, *Something to Write Home About: Memories from a Presidential Diarist*, which chronicles her years as America's first-ever Personal Diarist to a President, and the memories of working inside the white house.



Terrie Williams author of *Black Pain It Just Looks Like We are Not Hurting*

Terrie M. Williams is a licensed clinical social worker, and founder of The Terrie Williams Agency and The Stay Strong Foundation. She is also the best-selling author of four books, including her latest, entitled *BLACK PAIN: It Just Looks Like We're Not Hurting* (Scribner). Recently, Terrie appeared in the critically acclaimed national PBS documentary, "Depression: Out of the Shadows" in May 2008. Today, Terrie is committed to guiding people in deep emotional pain onto a path of healing so that they may live better lives as healthy and whole individuals.
tmwms@terriewilliams.com.



Haki Madhubuti author of *Liberation Narratives: Collective Poems 1966-2007*

As poet, publisher, editor and educator, *Haki R. Madhubuti* serves as a pivotal figure in the development of a strong Black literary tradition, emerging from the era of the sixties and continuing to the present. Over the years, he has published 24 books (some under his former name, Don L. Lee) and is one of the world's best-selling authors of poetry and non-fiction, with books in print in excess of 3 million. His *Black Men: Obsolete, Single, Dangerous?: The African American Family in Transition* (1990) has sold over 1,000,000 copies. His latest books are *Claiming Earth: Race, Rage, Rape, Redemption* (1994), *GroundWork: New and Selected Poems 1966-1996* (1996), and *HeartLove: Wedding and Love*

Poems 1998). Mr. Madhubuti also co-edited two volumes of literary works from Gallery 37, *Releasing the Spirit* (1998), and *Describe the Moment* (2000). His poetry and essays were published in over thirty anthologies from 1997-2001. His latest book is *Tough Notes: A Healing Call For Creating Exceptional Black Men* (2002).

Currently, Haki R. Madhubuti is the Distinguished University Professor, founder and director emeritus of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing and director of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program at Chicago State University.



Thembisa Mshaka author of *Put Your Dreams First Handle Your Entertainment Business*

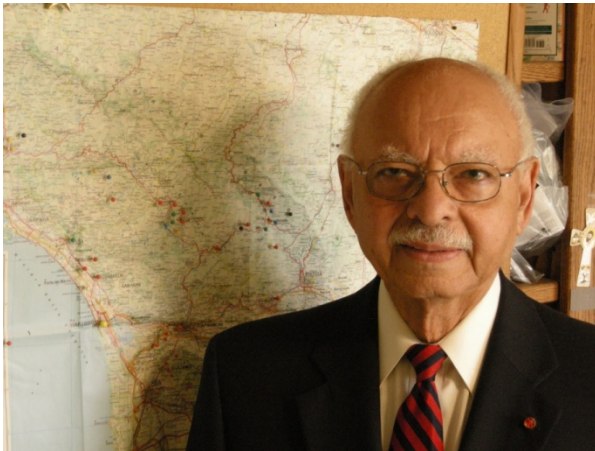
A cornerstone of integrity and stability in a highly competitive business, *Thembisa* has worked for over 17 years in service to the entertainment industry, spanning the areas of touring and management, magazine publishing, recorded music and technology, advertising, music supervision for film, voice over and most recently, television in her role as the Telly Award-winning Copy Director for BET Networks. The former GAVIN rap editor has also written for Honey, essence.com, LAUNCH, and

served as contributing editor for The Hotness.com and BLAZE. A native of Los Angeles, Thembisa is an alumna of Mills College in Oakland, California.



Trice Hickman author of *Keeping Secrets and Telling Lies A Novel*

Trice Hickman, is the author of *Unexpected Interruptions*, which won the Southeastern Virginia Arts Association's 2008 Afr' Am Literary Award for Best New African American Voice, and the Best Romance Novel Award at the 2008 African American Literary Awards Show. Her forthcoming novel, *Keeping Secrets & Telling Lies*, will be released June 23, 2009. Prior to becoming a published author, Ms. Hickman worked in both corporate and non-profit organizations. She earned a BA degree from Winston-Salem State University, and an MA degree from Wake Forest University. She resides in Washington, DC with her husband.



Ivan J. Houston author of *Black Warriors: The Buffalo Soldiers of World War II*

Named one of Harvard Business School's American Business Leaders of the 20th Century and on *Ebony's* "100 Most Influential Black Americans" for 14 consecutive years, Ivan J. Houston is the former CEO/Chairman of Golden State Mutual Life Insurance (GSM), one of the largest historically Black-owned companies, founded in 1925. Under his leadership GSM carried \$5 billion in insurance. The first African American on several corporate

boards including, First Interstate Bank (now Wells Fargo), Kaiser Aluminum, and Pacific Telesis Group (now AT&T), Houston's new book covers his other historic first – as a decorated soldier in WWII's first Black combat infantry unit.



Wade Nobles author of *Seeking the Sakhú: Foundational Writings for an African Psychology*

A founding member of the Association of Black Psychologists and former national President (1994-95) Dr. Nobles co-authored the Association of Black Psychology Ethical Standards, created its African centered Enstoolment of the President Installation Ceremony, re-designed the Association of Black Psychologists' African Centered Behavioral Change Model for the

Prevention of HIV AIDS and other STDs and helped to create the Association's international health initiative.

Dr. Nobles is the author of over sixty-five (65) articles, chapters, research reports and books; is the co-author of the seminal article in Black Psychology, *Voodoo or IQ: An Introduction to African Psychology* and the author of the forthcoming anthology, **Seeking the Sakhú: Foundational Writings in African Psychology**, of over thirty years of African centered research and scholarship. Dr. Nobles is an expert presenter-trainer in the fields of African Psychology, Black family dynamics, youth development, African centered education and behavioral change, culturally consistent systems theory, substance abuse prevention training, community generated ritual development, and traditional African spiritness and healing. He has lectured, trained, worked and designed community based development projects throughout the United States, England, Japan, the West Indies and Africa.



Monda Webb author of *7:33 am*

Author and poet Monda Raquel Webb lives in Rockville, Maryland. Currently, Monda freelances as a Marketing and PR consultant for her company Latebloomer 2000, sells real estate as the market dictates, has appeared on HGTV as a featured Realtor® on the series *Get It Sold*, and pursues her passion, writing, in her free time, which includes evenings, weekends and somewhere in between. She's published a fiction novel, which has been adapted into a screenplay, a book of honest and compelling poetry and is working on her third book entitled, *Life is Like A Soul Train Line*



Bryant Terry author of *Vegan Soul Kitchen Fresh, Healthy and Creative African American Cuisine*

Bryant Terry is an eco chef, food justice activist, and author of *Vegan Soul Kitchen (VSK): Fresh, Healthy, and Creative African-American Cuisine*. For the past nine years he has worked to build a more just and sustainable food system and has used cooking as a tool to illuminate the intersections among poverty, structural racism, and food insecurity. His interest in cooking, farming, and community health can

be traced back to his childhood in Memphis, Tennessee, where his grandparents inspired him to grow, prepare, and appreciate good food.

Bryant is currently a fellow of the *Food and Society Policy Fellows Program*, a national project of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. He has traveled to dozens of cities, doing cooking demonstrations and speaking at public events as well as at universities and colleges. Bryant contributes essays and recipes to a number of online and print outlets, and his work has been featured in *Gourmet*, *Food and Wine*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Vibe*, *Domino*, and many other publications. Bryant has a regular column—"Eco-Soul Kitchen"—on TheRoot.com. He has made dozens of national radio and television appearances (Fox, NBC, PBS, BET, and Sundance) including making a guest appearance on the eco-reality series *Mario's Green House* and being a host on *The Endless Feast*, a 13-episode public television series that explores the connection between the earth and the food on our plates.



Pedro Noguera – *The Trouble with Black Boys: And Other Reflections on Race, Equity, and the Future of Public Education*

Pedro Noguera, PhD, is a professor in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at New York University. He is also the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and the co-Director of the Institute for the study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings (IGEMS). An urban sociologist, Noguera's scholarship and research focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions in the urban environment. Noguera has served as an advisor and engaged in collaborative research with several large urban school districts throughout the United States. He

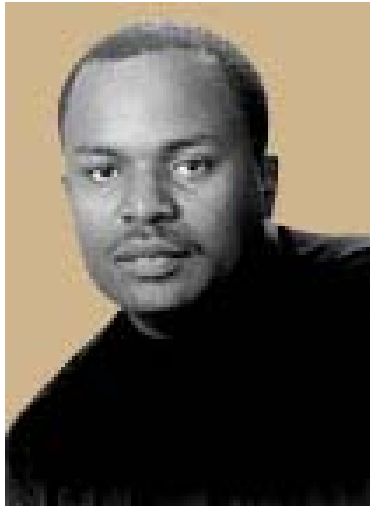
has also done research on issues related to education and economic and social development in the Caribbean, Latin America and several other countries throughout the world. Between 2000 and 2003, Noguera served as the Judith K. Dimon Professor of Communities and Schools at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. From 1990 to 2000, he was a Professor in Social and Cultural Studies at the Graduate School of Education and the Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of California, Berkeley.



Lori Nelson author of *Hillary's Big Business Adventure (Children's Book)*

The publisher and author of *Hillary's BIG Business Adventure*, *Lori Nelson* is a talented children's book author and aspiring writer and director of family-based television programming and feature films. She has a passion for educating kids through creative means and enjoys portraying them as lead characters experiencing and successfully

overcoming conflict and the challenges of being young in today's not so "kid-friendly" society. Her book has appeared on CBN, NBC, FOX, ABC, and WBAI 99.5 FM's *The Wakeup Call Morning Show* (New York City). In addition, Nelson was a finalist in the Nickelodeon Writing Fellowship Lab Competition during the 2008 American Black Film Festival, and the winner of the 2009 Allstate Insurance "Be Reel" Community Voice Film Contest. For more information on Nelson, her books, or future projects please visit her website: www.nelson-publishing.com



Gil L. Robertson IV editor & **Sandra Jowers** contributing author of *Family Affair: What it Means to be African American Today*

Gil L. Robertson, IV is a journalist whose work has appeared in *Essence*, *Billboard*, *Black Enterprise*, *The Source*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and who has appeared on the *Tavis Smiley Show*, *CNN*, and *BET*. His syndicated column, "The Robertson Treatment," appears in more than thirty newspapers, reaching more than 2 million readers across the country. He is also the editor of the critically acclaimed *Not In My Family: AIDS in the African-American Community* (Agate Bolden, 2006).



LaVerne Gill author of *African American Women in Congress Forming and Transforming History*

Rev. LaVerne M. Gill is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a trained Spiritual Director. She recently retired as the senior pastor of Webster UCC in Dexter, Michigan. She is currently the founder of the *Life Transformation Foundation, Inc.*, a new foundation committed to enriching the spiritual and physical quality of life both in the US and in developing countries. The foundation was inspired by her work in Ghana, West Africa where among other things; she led a year-long

campaign to construct a well a month in remote villages. She has trained teachers in Ethiopia and worked with improving the lives of residents in the Sanzule Refugee camp in Ghana.

Rev. Gill is the author of four books: *African American Women in Congress: Forming and Transforming History* (Rutgers University Press) which was nominated for a New Jersey Humanities Award; her most recent publication is a chapter in the book. The book resulted from a public radio program she produced entitled: "The Talented Ten: African American Women in the 103rd Congress". The program aired on over one hundred public radio stations in the U.S. and Canada. Other books include: *This is My Story: African American Women in Ministry, their Testimonies and their Sermons* (Westminster Knox Press); *Vashti's Victory: Biblical Women Resisting Injustice* (Pilgrim Press); *My Mother Prayed for Me* (United Church Press) and *Daughters of Dignity: African Biblical Women and the Virtues of Black Womanhood* (Pilgrim Press). Gill is the author of numerous articles and the subject of a number of newspaper stories. She is the recipient of the United Church of Christ's "Antoinette Brown Award" for excellence in ministry and most recently received the Olivet College's: "Leadership for Individual and Social Responsibility Award."