






**BEYOND BOLD AND BRAVE**  
presents

**“The Evolution of Our Community”**  
**BLACK LESBIAN CONFERENCE 2016**  
**March 25-26, 2016**

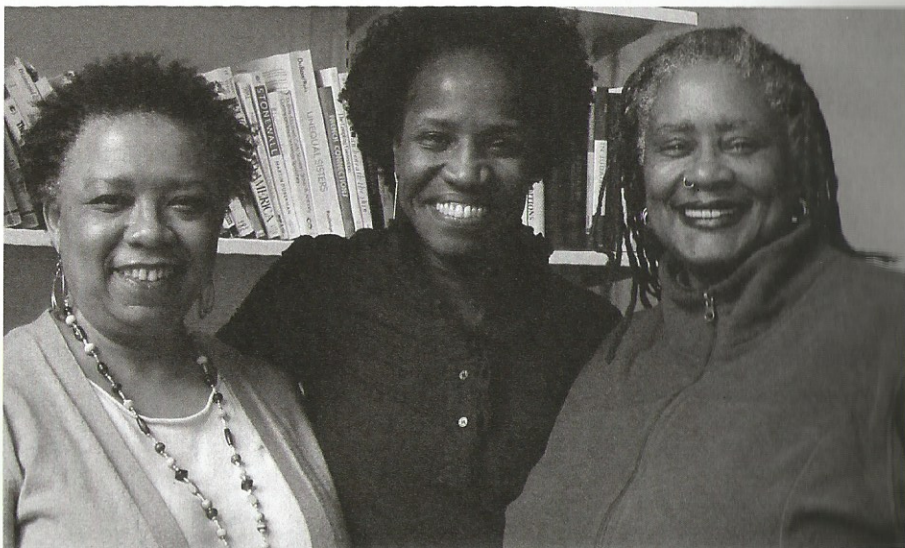
**Barnard Center for Research on Women**  
**Barnard College, New York City**

   [beyondboldandbrave](#)  [beyondboldbrave](#)

 [blacklesbianconference@gmail.com](mailto:blacklesbianconference@gmail.com)  646-836-8696

## Congratulations to Beyond Bold and Brave!

The Barnard Center for Research on Women  
is honored to support the  
Black Lesbian Conference 2016:  
“The Evolution of Our Community.”



Kim Ford

Tina Camp

alyce emory

# BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR  
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

## OUR ORGANIZERS

**MISSION** - Decades after the initial Black Lesbian Conferences and gatherings were held, Black/African Descent lesbians are still consistently marginalized with few public spaces dedicated to the issues unique to us. The lives, issues and contributions of Black/African Descent lesbians are repeatedly minimized or dismissed in shared Black LGBT spaces and are rarely addressed in lesbian-specific/welcoming or women only spaces. These shared LGBT spaces more often address issues relating to women of color collectively and by doing so, repeatedly fail to acknowledge and address the unique challenges facing Black/African descent lesbians within local and regional LGBTQ communities. alyce d. emory and Kim Ford, two LGBT and community activists & workers are working to change this by reclaiming a public space dedicated to the issues unique to this community. The result is the founding of Beyond Bold And Brave and the Black Lesbian Conference 2016 (BLC2016).

**WHO WE ARE** - Beyond Bold And Brave works to increase the visibility of \*Black/African Descent Lesbians in our communities by supporting and producing programs, projects and events that responsibly and truthfully affirm and represent Black /African Descent Lesbian life, work and identity. We define \*Black/African Descent Lesbians as a diverse community of women who are: part of the African diaspora including Black, African, African-American, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Indigenous, Afro-Latina, Afro-Asian, Afro-European; identify as transgender, cisgender, gender non-conforming, queer, same-gender loving as well as additional identities; and are attracted to and/or have relationships with women.

The Black Lesbian Conference 2016 planning team consists of Black/African Descent Lesbians leaders, activists and artists who have all volunteered their skills and resources to create a conference that will genuinely reflect and address Black/African Descent lesbian life and its current complexities. Advisors include Black/African Descent Lesbians and allies from various professions, communities and interests.

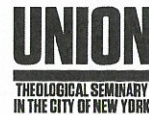
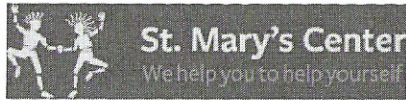
## SUPPORTERS

### Premier Sponsors



THE NEW YORK  
WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION®

### Major Sponsors



*Kitchen Table Giving Circle*

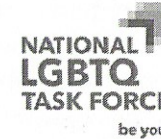


### Supporting Sponsors



## SUPPORTERS

### Community Sponsors



### Community Outreach Partners

Ali Forney Center | bkyn boihood | Circle of Voices, Inc.  
Dollhouse Meetup | ELIXHER | Global Network of Black Pride  
GO! Magazine | Griot Circle | Harlem Pride  
HUGS Movement Campaign | In Our Own Voices  
Lesbian Herstory Archives | LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent  
NYC Black Pride | NYC College of Technology's LGBTQ Initiative  
NYC Commission on Human Rights  
NYC Community Board 10 LGBTQ Task Force  
Newark LGBTQ Community Center | NYC Black Pride  
PM-AM Productions, LLC. | Rainbow Dee's Updates  
Seattle Black Feminists | SWERV Magazine | S.I.S.T.A.H.  
ZAMI NOBLA

## FROM THE FOUNDERS

As we take a fond look back on the two years of planning and preparation for the Black Lesbian Conference 2016, sometimes we just can't believe it. Our goal was to create a space that would support the continuation of the critically important work our spiritual and physical Black/African descent lesbian mothers/sisters/partners/mentors and allies created and continue to create. The foundation they set is firm yet it requires our commitment to keep it strong so all the work goes forth. Everyone gathering for BLC2016 shows our team that we are taking good steps in the right direction. What an affirmation that is!

BLC2016 is here for us to celebrate, assess, re-connect and renew ourselves so we can move forward as times and our lives change. As you arrive to the conference ready to consider "The Evolution of Our Community", bring a great spirit and get ready to

laugh  
think  
wonder  
remember  
learn  
question  
answer  
embrace  
focus  
...and just be yourself, as you truly are.

On behalf of our diligent Steering Committee, wise Advisors, generous Sponsors and steadfast Outreach Partners & Supporters, we welcome you and thank you immensely.

Humbly Onward!  
alyce emory and Kim Ford, Founders  
Beyond Bold And Brave and The Black Lesbian Conference 2016

## BARNARD

BARNARD COLLEGE - COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

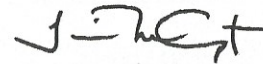
TINA M. CAMPT  
DIRECTOR, BARNARD CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN  
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES  
ANN WHITNEY OLIN PROFESSOR, AFRICANA AND WOMEN'S GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

3009 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027  
PHONE 212.851.9476  
EMAIL: TCAMPT@BARNARD.EDU

11 March 2016

The Barnard Center for Research on Women is proud to support the first Black Lesbian Conference 2016. We are happy to welcome participants to our campus to discuss the future of their community and strategize about ways of creating a world of mutual respect and dignity for all of its members. As the site of the historic 1982 Barnard Conference on Sexuality and as an organization committed to building alliances between scholars and activists in the struggle for social justice, we are gratified once again to be able to provide a space that nurtures this important conversation.

In solidarity,




Tina M. Campt  
Director, Barnard Center for Research on Women  
Chair, Department of Africana Studies  
Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Africana and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies


THE NEW YORK  
WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION

YOUR  
CITY  
YOUR  
FOUNDATION

**We are proud to support the  
Black Lesbian Conference 2016,  
which serves as an important  
convening in Harlem to unite  
transgender and cisgender lesbians  
of Black/African-descent and  
their allies of various backgrounds  
to celebrate the strength  
of this community and  
discuss key issues.**

**[www.nywf.org](http://www.nywf.org)**

 @nywomensfdn

 NewYorkWomensFoundation

 @NYWomensFdn

**NYC** Commission on  
Human Rights

March 25, 2016

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Black Lesbian Conference 2016 and the NYC Commission on Human Rights, the city agency charged with fighting discrimination citywide.

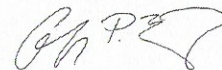
As residents of the one of the most diverse cities in the nation, New Yorkers stand shoulder to shoulder on the subway, at work, and on line with people who look, think, and love differently from us. We thrive on that diversity — it makes us stronger, more resilient, and more culturally aware. Embracing the ideals of diversity and inclusion is what makes New York City such a wonderful place.

The New York City Commission on Human Rights enforces the New York City Human Rights Law, one of the strongest human rights laws in the nation. Every day, we fight for people's right to live in, work in, and visit New York City free from discrimination. The Commission works with community-based organizations, businesses, housing providers, and government representatives at every level to ensure that every person in New York City receives the same rights and freedoms as everyone else.




In addition to making the City Human Rights Law stronger, we also strive to make the law more transparent so that everyone understands their rights and responsibilities. To that end, the Commission recently issued bold new legal enforcement guidance on protections against discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression. All members of the public now have this guidance, which explicitly spells out how discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming people manifests itself in everyday life and what actions constitute a violation of the law. As the first lesbian of color to lead the Commission, I am proud that our guidance has been so well-received, prompting *The Advocate* to call New York City "the nation's most trans-affirmative city."

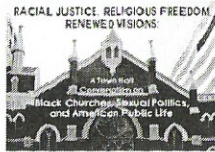
As we all know, more work needs to be done to ensure that no New Yorker is marginalized or left out, which is why the Commission depends on conferences like this to bring awareness to issues impacting our communities. The work you do at the Black Lesbian Conference 2016 brings greater visibility, different life experiences, and powerful voices to LGBT communities that are often overlooked. From spoken word to sisterhood, from education to entrepreneurship, from faith to fearlessness, from poetry to politics, the work of the Black Lesbian Conference is clearly "beyond bold & brave," and I salute you for all the work you will do this weekend to strengthen our City and all the diverse communities within it.

Sincerely,

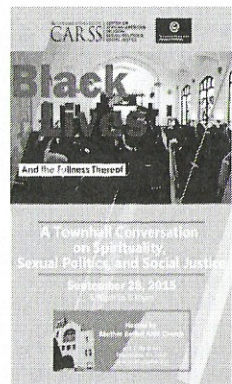


Carmelyn P. Malalis, Esq.  
Commissioner & Chairperson

100 Gold Street, Suite 4600 | New York, NY 10038 | [NYC.gov/HumanRights](http://NYC.gov/HumanRights) |    @NYCCHR



**THE CENTER ON AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGION, SEXUAL POLITICS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (CARSS) ADVANCES RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AT THE NEXUS OF RELIGION, RACE AND SEXUALITY WITH REGARDS TO BLACK COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S. AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA.**



760 Schermerhorn Extension, Columbia University  
 Mail Code 5512  
 1200 Amsterdam Avenue New York, NY 10027  
 Telephone: 212.854.7139  
 Fax: 212.854.7060  
 E-mail: carss@columbia.edu



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
 BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
 THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1 Centre Street, 19th floor  
 New York, NY 10007  
 (212) 669-8300 p (212) 669-4306 f  
[www.manhattanbny.gov](http://www.manhattanbny.gov)

Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

May 25, 2016

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to join Beyond Bold and Brave as you celebrate "The Evolution of Our Community" at your 2016 Black Lesbian Conference.

We salute the many contributions of Beyond Bold and Brave's cofounders—Alyce Emory and Kim Ford—and planning team, and we commend your work to increase the visibility of Black/African-descent lesbians in Manhattan. Your programs, projects, and events responsibly and truthfully affirm and represent their lives, work, and identity.

The conference's panels will provide invaluable discussions on a broad range of important topics on the state of the Black lesbian community—from an intergenerational perspective to workshops on advocacy, domestic violence, health and wellness, youth homelessness, organizing, and activism.

To make this conference a success, Beyond Bold and Brave has strategically forged partnerships with Barnard Center for Research on Women; New York Women's Foundation; the Ford Foundation; Lamda Legal; Gay Men's Health Crisis; The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center; the Ali Forney Center; NYC Black Pride; Billie's Black; Harlem Pride; LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent; Community Board 10's LGBTQ Task Force; and other community organizations.

We greatly appreciate everything Beyond Bold and Brave has done to organize this conference and enrich the lives of Black/African-descent lesbians in our communities.

Sincerely,

*Gale A. Brewer*  
 Gale A. Brewer

## CONFERENCE TEAM

### FOUNDERS



**alyce emory**

For over 20 years, **alyce emory** has successfully applied her professional skills in marketing and online content production (HBO and A&E Television), film festival production (Urbanworld Film Festival, Black Women's Film Festival in Philadelphia) and general event production & management (Third Wave Foundation, The Apollo Theater, UNESCO's Hip-Hop World Summit, and Clark Atlanta University Student Affairs). Her community work includes her development and production of the NYC Black Pride Salute to Our Seniors activities that received a New York City Council Proclamation in 2013. This stellar work also earned her an appointment by the Deputy Manhattan Borough President to the Islan Nettles Vigil Program Planning Committee. alyce moderated the Schomburg Center's 2014 LGBTQ Pride Month Panel Discussion, served on NYC Community Board 10's LGBTQ Town Hall Planning Committee 2015, and was a member of Harlem Pride's first Founding Advisory Board in 2010. alyce is a proud member of North Manhattan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Steering Committee for Kitchen Table Giving Circle: a Black/African Descent Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Women Philanthropic Initiative; the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the Black Documentary Collective.



**Kim Ford**

**KIM FORD** is an activist and non-profit consultant with experience working with community-based, and national nonprofit organizations. She is the founder of Kitchen Table Giving Circle: A Black/African Descent Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Women Philanthropic Initiative; co-founder of Black Lesbian Conference 2016: Beyond Bold & Brave – The Evolution of Our Community; and currently serves on the board of the Audre Lorde Project. Kim's experience with grassroots organizations includes: African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change; NYC's annual LGBTST Kwanzaa celebration; NYC's first Black Pride; Arms Akimbo: NYC's first-ever Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-Spirit and Transgender Women of Color Organizing Institute; and NYC's People of Color Pride Weekends. Kim has also worked with Third Wave Foundation, Stonewall Community Foundation's Racial Equity Initiative, Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change, the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, and Zuna Institute. She has facilitated workshops; moderated and spoken at various events, panels and readings; and presented on various topics including organizing in the LGBTST POC communities, racism within LGBTST communities, women's health and wellness, and sexuality.

## CONFERENCE TEAM

### STEERING COMMITTEE

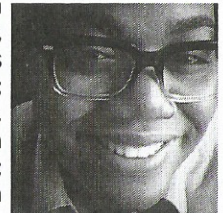
A born organizer, **KATHERINE BAILEY** has gained decades of experience planning major events while working for The New School in New York. Besides being a great lover of Jazz, Katherine is a passionate amateur photographer who has captured many amazing moments while traveling around the world. A firm believer in social justice, Katherine is presently a board member of LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent (FLOAD), a group composed of clergy, divinity students, and faith leaders formed to serve as ambassadors and educators to oppose discrimination, exclusion or intimidation of LGBT persons in our society and particularly in our church communities.



**MARSHA BONNER** is a noted empowerment speaker, social activist, corporate human resources diversity executive, and a luminary for change and acceptance. Marsha is the Founder of the H.U.G.S. Movement Campaign (Helping Us Grow Spiritually) to advocate for appreciation of all humanity. The campaign encourages individuals from around the world to respect and appreciate others through their words, actions and deeds by living and embracing a "HUGS Mindset". Marsha is committed to sharing her uplifting message of hope and she empowers others to lead purpose driven lives and stand against discriminatory ideas and stereotypes that prevent people from living in fellowship.



An events planner by trade, **KAWANA S. BULLOCK** has over a decade of experience in producing events for Pratt Institute, Columbia University; Urban Arts Partnership's 24-Hour Plays on Broadway; The CipHER Project's Zami Like Me Conference; and the third and national biennial BUTCH Voices Conference. A Hamilton College studio arts alumna, Kawana studied with Cheryl Dunye (The Watermelon Woman, Mommy is Coming); and researched the significance of British Black cinema in resistance movements at the British Film Institute (BFI). Kawana's film short, A Letter to You, won the college's prestigious J. Barney Moore Prize in Art and the Samuel F. Babbitt Kirkland College Fellowship. Kawana was a guest blogger for dapperQ and served as a Pride Foundation Communications Fellow at the Western States Center. Kawana is the Educational Director at the Portland Oregon's Women Film Festival (POWFest).



## CONFERENCE TEAM



**RHONDA OTTEN-CURTIS** is the founder of REO Accounting Solutions. The firm specializes in developing sound bookkeeping systems, financial statement preparation and audit planning for small to medium, for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Rhonda's professional career in financial accounting began in 1998. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Texas-Arlington and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Rhonda and her spouse, Debra, were one of the first lesbian couples to marry in New York City on July 24, 2011 and were prominently featured in People magazine - the August 8th, 2011 issue, which celebrated the passing of the Marriage Equality Act in New York State. Born and raised in the Bronx, New York, Rhonda recently became an ordained Interfaith Minister. Rhonda's personal passion and life's work is to support, encourage and to be of service to women and girls in the New York City community. Rhonda, Debra and their daughter Dawn, presently reside in Montclair, NJ.



**WEN PEGUERO** has an extensive background in corporate sales and has now embarked on her new career as a Civil Servant for the City of New York. Wen is a Baruch College graduate and has used her skills to become an activist and be of service to different communities. She's the current Director of Dollhouse Meetup, an online social group for lesbians of color and she member of the NYC Black Pride Women's Event Planning Committee.



**STEPHANIE REID** retired from NYC government after 31 years. Her career included serving as Director of New Hires and Policy and Procedures Training for the Human Resource Administration. She ended her career as the Regional Manager of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program covering the boroughs of Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. Currently she is an active member in her community and she serves as President of the Carnes Mckinney Apt. Cooperative.



**JULIE WORTHEY** is an out lesbian of color who is known for her eclectic tastes in music and the arts, her insatiable attraction to things that go bump in the night and appreciation for fine bourbon. Julie came out later in life and by necessity, developed some creative and successful strategies to widen her network of personal and professional contacts within the LGBTQ universe. Julie is also an attorney and is currently building a private practice following decades of public sector service with a not for profit agency and in state government. Committed to local community service, Julie has been a trustee of the Mount Vernon Public Library, a volunteer facilitator for LPSS, a Westchester LGBTQ organization, has volunteered with NEWFEST, New York's premier LGBTQ film festival and has also served on the boards of the Westchester Black Bar Association, the Association of Community Based Artists of Westchester and the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club.

## CONFERENCE TEAM

### Volunteers

Lolita B. | Faith Barclay | Marian Boullon  
Vanessa Bruce-Miller | Lizelle Bussue | Salena Clayton  
Carol Cole | Tiajuana Cooper | Sarah Cradle | Migdalia Cruze  
Julia Curtis-Burnes | Chrystal Dailey | Catharine Davis  
Mardeah Gbotoe | Bonnie Harrison | Deborah Hesterby-Small  
Donna Sue Johnson | Nicole Kanaiah | Patricia A. Martin  
Novelette Martin-Mason | Yvonne Maxwell | Gabriella Momah  
Salena Mullen | B. Oliver | Sherley Olopherne  
Louise Pearson | Doreen Pierre | Linda Rice  
Desmond Rudder | Isake Khadiya Smith | Sharon Smith

### LG2J is proud to be a sponsor of the Black Lesbian Conference 2016

We sincerely thank the organizers for their efforts  
and wish all attendees a fruitful and inspiring  
community experience.

LG2J generates social uplift in the marketplace through products and services that break barriers and encourage diversity and radical inclusion.

#### The LG2J Consulting Group

LGBT-focused leadership training, project management, and professional development

#### Griot Community Care

Pastoral counseling, employee assistance, conflict resolution, and LGBT-focused CPE

#### Renaissance ROW

Inclusive workspaces for the next generation of employees and businesses

LG2J GETS YOU MOVING

[info@lg2j.com](mailto:info@lg2j.com)



PROUD PARTNERS OF THE  
**BLACK LESBIAN CONFERENCE 2016**



Rayshawn and Avery Chancel,  
 Clients in Georgia marriage equality case

**Lambda Legal**  
 making the case for equality  
 www.lambdalegal.org

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

**AIDS WALK NEW YORK**  
 MAY 15, 2016

**aidswalk.net #aidswalkny 212.807.WALK**

A fundraising walk starting and ending in Central Park

Benefiting **GMHC**  
 FIGHT AIDS. LOVE LIFE.  
 and 40 other tri-state area AIDS service organizations.

PREMIER SPONSORS  
 Bristol-Myers Squibb  
 DELTA  
 GILEAD  
 Quest Diagnostics

In Cooperation with NYC Parks

Created and produced by MZA Events. AIDS Walk Founder/Senior Organizer: Craig R. Miller. © MZA Events, 2016

## SAFE SPACE GUIDELINES

**Black Lesbian Conference 2016 is committed to creating as safe a space as possible for our conference attendees, presenters and guests. To achieve that goal, we ask that everyone please adhere to these guidelines.**

- Give undivided attention to the person (s) who is (are) speaking during discussion sessions or presentations.
- Be as open and honest as possible without disclosing others (family, neighbors, or friends) personal or private issues. It is okay to discuss situations, but try not to use names or other ID. For example, instead of saying, "My older brother..." say, "I know someone who..."
- We can disagree with another persons point of view without putting that person down.
- We will speak our opinions using the first person and avoid using "you." For example, "I think that kindness is important." Not, "You are just mean."
- Remember that people may differ in cultural background, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or gender expression. Listen to how people describe their own identity, gender, partners and relationships and reflect their choice of language.
- Avoid making assumptions about a persons sexual orientation or gender identity: use gender-neutral terms such as partner(s).
- If you are unsure how to address a person, ask them how you should refer to them. You can also use: "What is your preferred personal pronoun?" as a good question for this purpose.
- Verbal, physical, and/or emotional aggression will not be tolerated.

**Thank you!**

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2016

**OPENING PROGRAM & RECEPTION - 6:00p - 8:00p, Diana Center Oval**

**WELCOME** - alyce emory and Kim Ford

**AFRICAN DRUMMING PERFORMANCE** - Asabi Davis, Rwanda Gross, Kaz Mitchell, Reese Williams, Fatu Yarrow

**CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK** - alyce emory and Kim Ford

**REMARKS** - Tina Campt, Executive Director of the Barnard Center for Women (BCRW)

**INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER** - Kim Ford

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Marjorie J. Hill, CEO Joseph Addabbo Health Center, NYC & past CEO, Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)

**DR. MARJORIE J. HILL** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Joseph Addabbo Health Center established as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in 1987. She has held a myriad of leadership positions in government, including Vice Chair of the NYS Workers' Compensation Board (appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo,), Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of the Gay Community in the Dinkins administration, and she also served as Assistant Commissioner for HIV/AIDS at the NYC Department of Health. Dr. Hill is a frequent presenter at national conferences and symposia and has several publications on cultural diversity, mental health issues and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Hill is proud of her longstanding association with the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), the oldest AIDS service provider in the world. Over a 17-year period, Dr. Hill served as a volunteer, board member and Chair, and was the longest tenured Chief Executive Officer in the agency's history. Appointed by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sibelius, Dr. Hill currently serves as a member of the CDC/HRSA AIDS Advisory board, and is Governor Andrew Cuomo's designated Chair of the New York State AIDS Advisory Council.



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS** - alyce emory and Kim Ford

**CLOSING**

**RECEPTION**

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016

*All activities and sessions will be held in The Diana Center, 3015 Broadway, NYC*

**CONFERENCE CHECK-IN - 8:00a - 4:00p, Diana Center Lobby**

**BREAKFAST - 8:45a - 9:45a, Diana Center Oval**

**CONFERENCE WELCOME/KICK-OFF - 9:45a, Diana Center Oval**

**BREAK**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS I. - 10:15a - 11:45a**

**Panel:** "What Does It Mean to Draw A Line? Black Lesbian Separation as Respite From Oppression" **Participants:** Karen Thompson, Yoruba Richen, Dr. Judith Casselberry – **Room LL103**

**Roundtable:** "Advocating For Ourselves: Getting The Resources We Need" **Participants:** Monique "Mo" George, T. Jibri Douglas, Rebecca Williams, Ejeris Dixon – **Room LL104**

**Workshop:** "Domestic Violence - Healing The Anger Within" **Presenter:** Annette Brent – **Room 504**

**BREAK**

**LUNCHEON DISCUSSION - 12:00p - 1:30p – Diana Center Oval**

"The State of the Black Lesbian Community: An Intergenerational Perspective" **Moderator:** Mignon Moore **Participants:** Imani Rashid, Ryann Holmes, Tina Jones

**BREAK**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS II. - 1:45p - 3:15p**

**Workshop:** "Sacred Erotica: Creatively Moving Shadows Into Light" **Presenter:** Sacred Walker – **Room LL103**

**Workshop:** "Sex and Sexuality" **Participants:** Tandra LaGrone, Gabby Santos, Vanessa Campus – **Room LL104**

**Discussion:** "Creating Financial Wellness for LGBTQ Women" **Moderator:** Rhonda Otten-Curtis **Participants:** Aquaila Barnes, Alexis McSween, Adriane Ferguson – **Room 504**

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016

(continued)

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS III - 3:30p - 5:00p

**Workshop:** "Whole Health & Wellness For LGBTQ Transgender & Cisgender Women" **Presenter:** Adaku Utah – **Room LL103**

**Panel:** "Black Lesbian Poets: Bringing the Political To The Page and Stage"  
**Participants:** JP Howard, R. Erica Doyle, Amber Atiya, Monica Hand – **Room LL104**

**Discussion** "Black Lesbian Youth & Their Experiences With Homelessness and Gender Roles" **Participants:** Stacey Lewis, Sheraine Gregory, Vanessa Campus – **Room 504**

#### BREAK

#### CLOSING PANEL & DISCUSSION - 5:15p - 6:45p – Diana Center Oval

"Black Lesbian Organizing and Activism: From the '70's to Now"

**Moderator:** Alexis Pauline Gumbs **Participants:** Linda Villarosa, Shawn(t)a Smith-Cruz, Cassandra Grant

#### FINAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - 6:45p - 7:00P

*Kitchen Table Giving Circle*



**NBLCA**  
**National Black Leadership**  
**Commission on AIDS, Inc.**

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



**AMBER ATIYA** is the author of *the fierce bums of doo-wop*. Her work has appeared in *Black Renaissance Noire*, *Boston Review*, *PEN Poetry Series*, and elsewhere. A proud native Brooklynite, she is a member of a women's writing group that will be celebrating 14 years this spring.

**AQUAILA BARNES'** approach to financial management is holistic, as she assists clients in building a road map to financial freedom. In 1992, Aquila started Barnes Financial Services as a family-owned business in Indianapolis, IN. In 2000, she moved to New York and expanded the practice to the Tri-State area building a niche clientele of artists, creatives, entrepreneurs, educators and small business owners. She is committed to helping clients find realistic and empowering ways to look at their finances. With almost 25 years of tax preparation and accounting experience, she has built a reputation for supporting individuals and small businesses in designing and implementing financial plans that complement their goals.



**ANNETTE BRENT (COACH B)** is a Certified Spiritual Transformational Coach, whose coaching programs have helped people who feel trapped by their painbreakthrough their victim mindset and find a renewed sense of purpose and direction. She helps clients resolve their relationship challenges, coming out issues, depression, grief and anger to live a life with more balance, clarity and peace. She has presented "Uncovering Your Passion" for the Queer Women of Color's annual event in Georgia - "Shades Retreat". She produced Rainbow Fashion Week's "Metamorphic Corner" talks presented by Jag and Co. where she spoke on bullying, intolerance within our community, senior visibility, transjustice and body dysmorphia.



**DR. JUDITH CASSELBERRY** is assistant professor of Africana studies at Bowdoin College, teaching courses on African American women's religious lives, music and spirituality in popular culture, music and social movements, and issues in Black intellectual thought. Her interest in African American religious and cultural studies, with particular attention to gender, guides her research agenda. She has held visiting appointments at Wesleyan University, Barnard College, Vassar College, New York University, Princeton and Harvard. As a vocalist and guitarist, she currently performs with Toshi Reagon and BIGLovely, and has enjoyed a career as an international recording artist with Casselberry-DuPreé and JUCA. She has shared stages with Sweet Honey in the Rock, Odetta, Stevie Wonder, Etta James, and Elvis Costello, among others. Casselberry earned a BA of Music from Berklee College of Music; an MA from Wesleyan University; and PhD from Yale University (2008).



## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



**VANESSA CAMPUS** is responsible for the development and execution of community level interventions that seek to educate the community on HIV/AIDS present for the Gay Men's Health Crisis. Vanessa is a sought-after speaker/subject matter expert who's been featured in *Achieve* and *POZ Magazine* and on National Public Radio.

**EJERIS DIXON** is an organizer and political strategist with 15 years of experience organizing within racial justice, LGBTQ, anti-violence, and economic justice movements. She is the Founding Director of Vision Change Win Consulting where she partners with organizations to build their capacity and deepen the impact of their organizing strategies. She is a widely recognized as an expert on issues of police violence, hate violence, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence as they impact LGBTQ communities and communities of color.



Newark, New Jersey native **T. JIBRI DOUGLAS** has a Bachelors degree in Health Promotion and Behavior. Jibri has worked tirelessly in the HIV/AIDS field in many capacities primarily with LGBT homeless youth, young men who have sex with men, transgender women, and formerly incarcerated women. In 2014, Jibri began to travel internationally to engage in global HIV/AIDS prevention work. Out of this experience, she created her non-profit organization, Coins for Humanity, which furthers efforts in global HIV/AIDS education and prevention by increasing the presence of African American college students in international field experiences. In 2015, she started TJD Medical Consulting, LLC. to decrease health disparities and address the healthcare gaps present between healthcare systems and the LGBT community.

**R. ERICA DOYLE's** debut collection, *proxy* (Belladonna\* Books, 2013), won the 2014 Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America and was a Finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in Lesbian Poetry. Her work has been anthologized in *Best American Poetry*, *Our Caribbean: A Gathering of Gay and Lesbian Writing from the Antilles*, *Gumbo: A Celebration of African American Writing*, *Bum Rush the Page: A Def Poetry Jam*, and others. Her articles and reviews have appeared in *Ms. Magazine* and *Black Issues Book Review*. She has received grants and awards from the Hurston/Wright Foundation, the Astraea Lesbian Writers Fund, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and she was a New York Foundation for the Arts Poetry Fellow.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



On a leap of faith in 2006, Harlem native **ADRIANE FERGUSON** resigned from her USPS Customer Service & Finance Manager position and opened Billie's Black Restaurant. For 10 years this Harlem establishment has continued to embrace loyal and new customers. Adriane assisted in the founding of Harlem Pride (2010) and she's also a member of New York Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Harlem Business Alliance, Harlem Arts Alliance and is a certified Minority Business Enterprise. She has a B.S. in Criminal Justice and graduated from the Workshop In Business

Opportunities.

**MONIQUE "MO" GEORGE**, a proud product of public housing, is the NYC Chapter Director of Organizing, with Community Voices Heard (CVH) where her work ranges from welfare and workforce, participatory budgeting, issues of the preservation of public housing in New York City. She's met with White House current and past Presidents, has become a U.S. State Department Fellow through her work with the Greater Lakes Consortium of Toledo, Ohio. Her organizing experience has included union organizer with SEIU Local 1199 and Lead Organizer at Empire State Pride Agenda, Mo has served on the boards of AALUSC (African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change), and Heritage of Pride (HOP) and she is currently the Board Co-Chair for FIERCE!.



**CASSANDRA GRANT** was among a group of powerful Black lesbian sisters in the 70's who founded Salsa-Soul Sisters Third World Women, Inc.; a voice, a movement that became a force to be reckoned with within the Gay Community. They where faced with a time when discrimination, fear and oppressive gay cultural practices had to change. Cassandra is married to Sharon Lucas, another original member of Salsa. Cassandra is an educator, activist, who lives her life with a passion for working with her people and children. She believes that it is important to be grounded spiritually and culturally in your journey through life. Find Your Passion and Act On It!!!

**SHERAINE GREGORY** is the Drop-In Safety Supervisor at the Ali Forney Center. Sheraine has been with AFC for 3 years starting as Youth Counselor for 1 year and working at the Drop-in Center for 2 years. As supervisor in the Drop-in Program, she responds to the concerns from staff and clients. She ensures that there is a flow between staff and client when connecting them to services provided by AFC. Sheraine brings a sense of organization, clarity, structure and professionalism all while exuding the mission of AFC with a kind heart and kind soul. Sheraine studied information management and technology at Syracuse University.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



**ALEXIS PAULINE GUMBS** is an award-winning writer, a black feminist love evangelist and the co-founder of the Mobile Homecoming experiential archive project. Her research on Audre Lorde, June Jordan and black lesbian publishing practices is widely published. She is the co-editor of *Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines* which connects the mothering practices of black lesbian feminists of the 1970s and 80s to a diverse range of mothers in the present.

**MONICA A. HAND** is the author of *me and Nina*, (Alice James Books, 2012), short-listed for the 2013 Hurston Wright Legacy Award and finalist for the 2012 Foreword Book of the Year. Her poems have been published in *Pleiades*, *Oxford American*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, *The Sow's Ear*, *The Wide Shore*, *Drunken Boat*, *American Creative Writers on Class*, and *Beyond the Frontier*, *African-American Poetry for the 21st Century*. A Cave Canem Alum, she has a MFA in Poetry and Poetry in Translation from Drew University, and currently, she is a PhD candidate in Poetry at the University of Missouri-Columbia.



**RYANN MAKENZI HOLMES** is a culture-maker, arts producer and social entrepreneur who lives in Brooklyn, New York. In 2009, Ryann co-founded bklyn boihood, a collective that champions safe spaces, accountable action, love, and community building for lesbian, gay, bi, queer and transgender people of color. Ryann is also the producer of the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts' Soul of Brooklyn Festival, a week long cultural mash-up that brings out thousands of people each year. Ryann sprinkles fairy dust on everything.

**JP HOWARD** is a Cave Canem graduate fellow. She is the author of *SAY/MIRROR*, a poetry collection and a chaplet "bury your love poems here". JP, an alum of the VONA/Voices Writers Workshop, as well as a Lambda Literary Foundation Emerging LGBT Voices Fellow, curates and nurtures Women Writers in Bloom Poetry Salon. She was a finalist in The Feminist Wire's 2014 1st Poetry Contest and in the poetry category for the Lesbian Writer's Fund of Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Feminist Wire*, *Split this Rock*, *Nepantla: A Journal for Queer Poets of Color*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *Adrienne: A Poetry Journal of Queer Women*, *The Best American Poetry Blog*, *MiPOesias*, *The Mom Egg*, *Talking Writing* and *Connotation Press*.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



**TINA JONES** aka TJ identifies as a young Lesbian Woman of Color. She has her B.A. in English and is currently working on her Masters in Humans Service Counseling. TJ currently works at HEAT (Health and Education Alternative for Teens) in Brooklyn, at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. As the LGBT Outreach coordinator, TJ provides an array of services for adolescents, which include HIV pre and post Test Counseling, curriculum development and facilitating workshops on Sexual health, Diversity, Cultural competency and other topics. She is an active member of The Kiki Coalition, The Coalition of Homeless youth and The NYC HIV Prevention Planning Group (currently known as HPG).

**TANDRA LAGRONE** is an activist, organizer and cultural critic, as well as the Executive Director of In Our Own Voices, a nonprofit working to ensure the physical, mental, spiritual, political, cultural and economic survival and growth of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of color communities. She is an advocated for HIV/AIDS treatment in the African American community, especially for women and young black men. The Albany native has worked as a domestic violence, youth, and LGBT advocate for over 20 years. She has given presentations, as well as led panel discussions and workshops during a variety of activist and academic conferences and events on LGBT issues with a particular focus on people of color.



**STACEY LEWIS** is the Director of the LEAP/Life Skills Program at the Ali Forney Center. Working as a Residential Youth Counselor for 3 years and with the LEAP program for 2, she brings over 5 years of experience working with New York City's homeless LGBT youth. Overseeing the LEAP program, she supports the youth of AFC by helping them develop work readiness and life skills to give them an edge in today's job market and move out of homelessness. Stacey earned her Bachelor's degree in Women and Gender Studies and French from Hunter College of the City University of New York. When Stacey is not at AFC, she is also working as a birth doula providing physical and emotional support to pregnant women before, during and after birth.

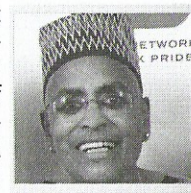
## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**ALEXIS MCSWEEN** brings over 18 years of practical and formal experience as President of Bottom Line Construction & Development, LLC. Ms. McSween holds a Masters of Science in Real Estate Development with a minor in Construction Management from NYU's Shack Real Estate Institute. In 2010, Ms. McSween established Bottom Line Construction & Development a NYC-/NYS M/WBE/DBE firm, with a focus on public and private work throughout the city and State. In addition to its construction, BLCD is currently the developer/owner of 10,000 S.F ground up project, Baldwin Park, located in Harlem. Ms. McSween is involved as a Fast-Trac Growth-Venture Alumni, School Construction Authority Mentee, Manhattan & Women Chambers of Commerce member as well as a member of the Queens Bronx Building Association.



**MIGNON R. MOORE**, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Sociology at Barnard College. She is the recipient of several honors including a Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar position, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Early Career Award, and a Human Rights Campaign national award for her work and outreach with LGBT communities of color. Professor Moore's research lies in the fields of sexuality, race, family, gender, and aging. Her 2011 book, *Invisible Families: Gay Identities, Relationships and Motherhood among Black Women*, examines how lesbian women of color form and raise families and experience their gay identities while retaining connections to their racial/ethnic communities. Dr. Moore is co-director of the Resource Centers on Minority Aging Research at the UCLA School of Medicine, which supports her new book project on the social histories and social support for LGBT elders. She currently lives in Manhattan and enjoys spending time in Harlem with her wife and their two toddlers.

Yoruba Priestess, **IMANI RASHID** has been a leader and an agent for promoting change for four decades. She is a visionary, entrepreneur, writer, motivational speaker, performing artist and an institution builder. Imani is a retired New York City Board of Education teacher, founder of the Kwanzaa in the LGBT Community Organization and the author of "Kwanzaa in The Lesbian & Gay Family". Her community work includes "The Imani Rashid Retreat Center for Healing" in the Hamptons that has catered to the needs of the LGBT community and her newest initiative, "The LGBT Kwanzaa Storytelling for Children" co-chaired with its Board Members, Cassandra Grant and The African Folk Heritage Circle.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



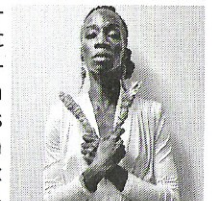
**YORUBA RICHEN** is a documentary filmmaker whose work explores issues of race, space and power. Her films include *Promised Land* and *The New Black*, which won Audience Awards at AFI Docs, Philly Q Fest, and Frameline LGBT Film Festival. The film also won best documentary at the Urbanworld Film Festival and was nominated for an NAACP Image Award and a GLAAD Media Award. Yoruba has won the Creative Promise Award at Tribeca All Access and was also a Sundance Producers Fellow. She is a featured TED Speaker and a Guggenheim Fellow and a 2016 recipient of the Chicken & Egg Breakthrough Filmmaker Award. Yoruba is director of the documentary program at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism.

**GABBY SANTOS** is the Director of LGBT Health Services for In Our Own Voices. She has worked with victims of trauma since 1994 in roles ranging from inmate support group facilitator, to policy work on behalf of LGBT POC. Racial justice work, transgender activism and criminal justice reform are at the heart of her passion. Gabby is committed to promoting the sexual health of LGBT POC and their communities in order to end health disparities. She provides leadership to various projects, including Unity Through Diversity, a National LGBT POC Health Summit, and the Annual Black & Latino Gay Pride of the Capital District of NY. She is also a member of the Arte Sana board of directors and ALAS, the national Latina alliance against sexual violence.



**SHAWN(TA) SMITH-CRUZ** is a separatist, zinester, archivist, writer, and black-dyke-participant of intentional, community-specific, collective spaces. She's plans events and distributes the Black Lesbians in the 70's Zine at the Lesbian Herstory Archives. Shawn(ta) is board member of Fire & Ink, a national organization for LGBT writers of African descent, and she's an Assistant Professor as Head of Reference of the Mina Rees Library at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Hailing from Nigeria, **ADAKU UTAH** is an award winning liberation educator and organizer, healer and performance ritual artist committed to healing and liberation within oppressed communities. She is the founder and director of Harriet's Apothecary, a healing village led by Black Cis Women, Queer and Trans folks committed to living out Harriet Tubman's legacy of liberation in our tissues and our lineage. She is also the founder of BeatBox Botanicals, a local sliding-scale, love-centered, and community-inspired, plant medicine and healing practice.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



**LINDA VILLAROSA** runs the journalism program at City College and is a writer who covers LGBT and social justice issues. She was recently nominated for a GLAAD Award for her article on LGBT activism in Africa for *Essence* and contributed an essay about Black Love in *Ebony's* February issue. With her mother and sister she launched Villarosa Media, which published *The Wind Is Spirit: The Life, Love and Legacy of Audre Lorde* by Dr. Gloria Joseph in February.

**SACRED WALKER** is the Founder and Executive Manager of Kuumba Health, a woman-led health and advocacy organization that convenes holistic retreats and workshops for practitioners to exemplify core principles to community members. Sacred Walker is an Interfaith Chaplain, earning her Masters of Divinity (MDiv) from Union Theological Seminary's Psychiatry and Religion Program, with a specialization in Holistic Psychology. Additionally, Sacred has over 10 years of experience training with drama therapy Board Certified Trainers and leading organizations in the field as a Professional Member of the North American Association of Drama Therapy.



**REBECCA WILLIAMS** has served as an At-large Councilwoman for the City of Plainfield, New Jersey since January of 2011. In November of 2014, she was re-elected to a second term with 87% of the vote. The council's only openly gay member, she serves as chair of the Finance Committee, the Public Safety Committee, and the Recreation Committee. In addition to her legislative work, Councilwoman Williams is an Assistant Professor in the English Department at Essex County College in Newark, where she teaches African American Literature, Women's Literature, and Composition. She also serves as faculty co-advisor to the college's Gay/Straight Alliance.

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Katherine Acey | Mary Anne Adams  
 Barnard College Department of Africana Studies  
 Barnard College Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies  
 Justin Bryant | Fran Clodomar  
 Daryl Cochrane | Avi Cummings  
 Christina Curry | Avril Dass  
 Asabi Davis | Hope Dector  
 Howard Dodson | David Dodson | Jualynne Dodson  
 Akinfe Fatou | Jamil Fletcher  
 Kate Frawley | Keesha Gaskins  
 Ife Velma George | Che Gossett  
 Rwanda Gross | Aundaray Guess  
 Christa Hill | Jacquelyn Holland | Janet Jakobsen  
 Donna Sue Johnson | Sonyamaria Johnson  
 Christopher Jones | Diana Lachatanere  
 Joseph Riley Land | Tiye Lasley  
 Sheba Legend | Kelsey Louie  
 YaYa McKoy | Kimberley McLeod  
 Derrick McQueen | Kaz Mitchell  
 Athena Moore | Geneva Musgrave | Ana Maria Nichim  
 Dr. Kara Olidge | Ana Oliveira  
 Nneka Onuorah | Cara Page  
 Dr. Wilhelmina Perry | Pamela Phillips  
 Cyrille Phipps | Tonia Poteat  
 Rose Pierre-Louis | Ryan Rasdall  
 Imani Rashid | Cathy Renna  
 Michael Roberson | Rashida Rowe | SAGE Harlem Women's Group  
 Charles Shorter | Stacey Long Simmons  
 Lee Soulja | Josef Sorett  
 Holly Argent Tariq | Glennda Testone  
 Beverly Tillery | Sheryll White  
 Reese Williams | Tanya Williams | Fatu Yarrow

## BLACK LESBIAN CONFERENCE 2016 SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

---

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

10:15a – 11:46a

#### **Panel: “What Does It Mean To Draw A Line? Black Lesbian Separation as Respite from Oppression.”**

This session interrogates the use and validity of female-only spaces for black women as political actors. Through the lenses of criminal defense attorney Karen Thompson, filmmaker Yoruba Richen, and Dr. Judith Castleberry, this panel explores how the elision of sex and gender uniquely impacts black females and prevents us from naming our pain; especially in the light of the fact that our bodies have always been considered to be gender non-conforming, monstrous, over-sexualized and outside the scope of “normalcy” as both women and as females. This session explores the unique nature of black female oppression within this lens and the validity of healing that experience through separation.

#### **Roundtable: “Advocating for Ourselves: Getting The Resources We Need.”**

This discussion will focus on the participants’ personal and professional perspectives and experiences on how advocacy can and often must start with our individual selves and how that work can lead to resources we need.

**Workshop: “Domestic Violence – Healing The Anger Within.”** Anger is a healthy emotion but if not channeled properly, it can be a destructive force. Domestic violence amongst the lgbt community and heterosexuals is comparable. This interactive workshop will provide a forum for open dialogue. Participants will learn of various forms of abuse, triggers, red flags and how to stop dangerous patterns before they escalate. The effects of rage, silence, abuse and the importance of forgiveness, releasing self-blame and moving on will be covered. Workshop presenter will be Annette Brent

### LUNCH DISCUSSION - 12:00p – 1:30p

#### **“The State of the Black Lesbian Community: An Intergenerational Perspective”**

Join the discourse on Black Lesbian community priorities, history, and considerations for the future.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS II

1:45p - 3:15p

**Workshop: “Sacred Erotica: Creatively Moving Shadow Into Light”.** Using theater, movement and a more empowered you, we will play with often taboo subjects like sex, faith, and health, all in one. In this workshop, through creative expression you will move through one specific area of your life that remains stuck and bring lightness and love in a fun and safe environment. Get ready to improve your health and interpersonal relationships by improving your relationship with your imagination, sexuality and spirituality! Reclaim your birthright – honor your Sacred Erotica today!



**Workshop: “Sex and Sexuality”** – A workshop/conversation focusing on sex, sexuality and sexual health.

**Discussion: “Creating Financial Wellness for LGBTQ Women”** – Discussion participants share how their personal experiences helped them create their own tools for getting to and maintaining financial wellness. Discussion points include the “fear” of money, self-esteem, setting realistic financial goals, and more.

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS III      3:30p - 5:00p**

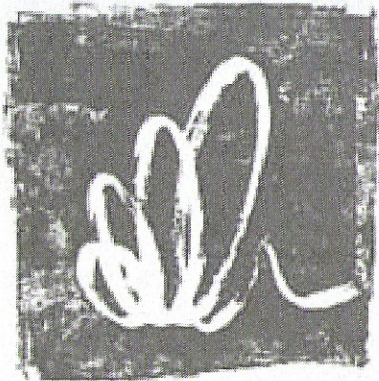
**Workshop: “Whole Health & Wellness For LGBTQ Transgender & Cisgender Women”** - Explore what being healthy really means. Learn how we can heal naturally with love and respect as we care for our bodies and ourselves.

**Panel: “Black Lesbian Poets: Bringing the Political To The Page and Stage”** – This panel will explore and celebrate Black lesbian poets and our ongoing dedication to socio-political concerns facing the Black community. We will examine how Black lesbian poetry continues to be relevant, whether written in the 1970’s or in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Panelists will discuss Black lesbian poets’ participation in socio-political movements across decades, dating back to Audre Lorde and her poems on the murders of black children to poets writing about current day political movements, including a discussion of our role in #BlackPoetsSpeakOut (an expansive group of Black poets from across the country, who are speaking out in reaction to police brutality in the Black community). We will discuss political poems of poets across generations, including Pat Parker, Cheryl Clarke, Jewelle Gomez, Audre Lorde, T’ai Freedom Ford, as well as those of panelists Amber Atiya, R. Erica Doyle, Monica A. Hand and JP Howard.

**Discussion: “Black Lesbian Youth & Their Experiences With Homelessness and Gender Roles”** – What does it mean to be young, Black Lesbian and also experiencing homelessness in New York City? The Ali Forney Center, the nation’s largest housing program for homeless LGBTQ youth serves hundreds of youth every year. Through a panel of AFC staff and clients, we will facilitate a conversation with a Q&A that aims to raise awareness about LGBTQ youth homelessness and how it specifically impacts Black Lesbians both single and in relationships. How are young black lesbians accessing services in New York City, What are the barriers they may face within AFC and other agencies? Are there tools unique to the Black Lesbian community? What about Black Lesbian couples? What are the dynamics and supportive measures that arise from these relationships? We aim to explore and answer these questions and more!

**CLOSING PANEL & DISCUSSION “Black Lesbian Organizing and Activism: From the ‘70’s to Now”** - Hear participants discuss the important rich history of Black Lesbian Organizing and Activism and how it has and continues to impact and transform current historical, cultural and social justice movements.

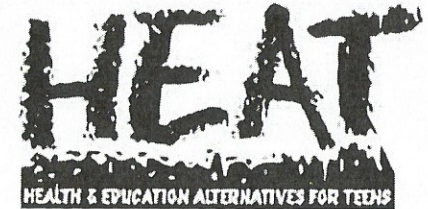
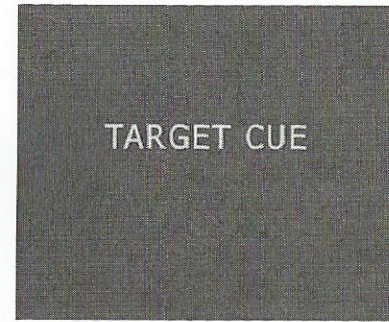





**Astraea**  
LESBIAN FOUNDATION  
FOR JUSTICE

WILLIAM F. RYAN COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK  
CONGRATULATES  
"THE EVOLUTION OF OUR COMMUNITY"  
BLACK LESBIAN CONFERENCE 2016

*E. Ronald Guy, Chair, Board of Directors, Ryan Center  
Walter Delacruz, Esq., Chair, Board of Directors, Ryan/Chelsea-Clinton  
Brian McIndoe, MPA, President & CEO  
Leslie Pargament, Executive Director, Ryan/NEHA  
Charles W. Shatter, MSW, Executive Director, Ryan/Adair  
William Murphy, Executive Director, Ryan/Chelsea-Clinton*  
Health Care is a Right, Not a Privilege



  
**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL  
of PUBLIC HEALTH

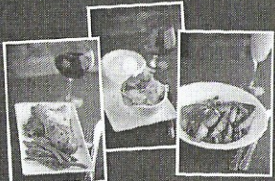
Center for Public Health  
and Human Rights

 **creatingchange**  
conference

**See you in Philly!**


January 18-22, 2017  
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown

**THE  
CENTER**  
THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &  
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER



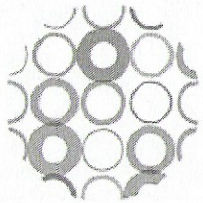
"A comfy haven... the decor is funkily elegant...  
the food is soulful and abundant."  
- The Village Voice

tempting cocktails  
great entertainment  
delicious food

**BILLIE'S BLACK**  


271 W. 119th St. | billiesblack.com | 212.290.2348

**Black-owned.  
Lesbian-owned.  
Celebrating 10 years.**



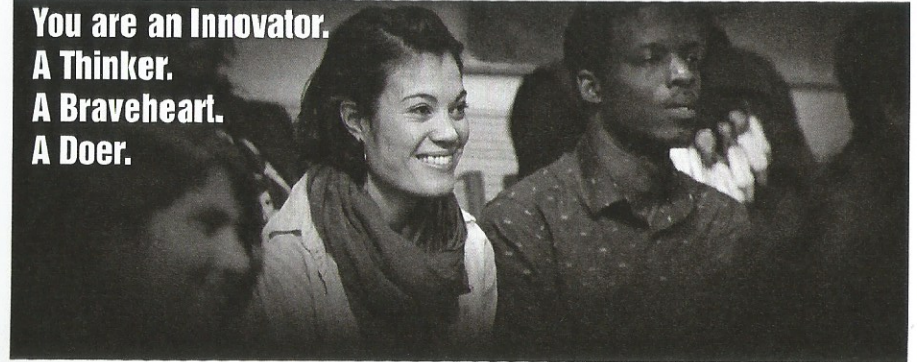
FORD  
FOUNDATION

Riley/Land would like to  
extend a **20%**  
discount  
to the groundbreaking  
women of the Black Lesbian  
Conference 2016. Use code  
BLC20 through Labor Day.

HAND  
CRAFTED  
NATURAL  
FUNCTIONAL  
DELICIOUS  
ART

FARM + PANTRY  
WWW.RILEY-LAND.COM

You are an Innovator.  
A Thinker.  
A Braveheart.  
A Doer.



UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
shapes faith-inspired leaders committed to working for human betterment

## Union Theological Seminary congratulates BLC 2016 as you explore “The Evolution of Our Community”

Here are some of the courses that can prepare you for the Journey:

Womanist Thought, Theory  
and Praxis

Self and Other: Race, Culture  
& Psychoanalysis

LGBTQ Sexual  
Ethics

Preaching for Social  
Transformation

Justice and World Order

African Religions in the  
Americas

**UNION**  
utsnyc.edu/apply

St. Mary's Center  
Adult Day Health Care



Congratulates

Beyond Bold & Brave

On

'The Evolution of Our Community''

Black Lesbian Conference 2016

[www.stmarysharlem.com](http://www.stmarysharlem.com)