

# The SISTA AH SIREN

S U R V I V O R S I N S P I R I N G S I S T E R S T H R O U G H  
A R T & A D V O C A C Y F O R H E A L T H , I N C .

## SISTA AH'S ANNUAL SALUTE TO CANCER SURVIVORS IN HARLEM



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On October 29, 2011 The second annual Survivorship Saturday in Harlem, was presented by SISTA AH, Inc. at WorkSpace Harlem Art Gallery, (2340 Fifth Avenue) to unite cancer survivors, families, friends, artists, clergy, and physicians to celebrate survivorship and promote early detection of cancer. After the invocation by Rev. Monique Scott (Christian Life Church), numerous presenters delighted the audience. Sylvia Dunnavant of **The Celebrating Life Foundation** unveiled

portraits of survivors highlighted in the upcoming book *Still Celebrating Life*.

Renowned breast surgeon Dr. Bert M. Petersen, Jr.



Author/Photographer Sylvia Dunnavant poses with her Portrait Exhibition

discussed his personal crusade to eliminate disparities in African-American cancer rates. Guests then enjoyed a survivor's testimony by motivational speaker, Shirley Carter, and an interactive Theater of the Oppressed workshop with Jeremiah Kyle Drake. Performances by The Movement of the Children Dancer and song stylist Rick Anthony Richards accentuated the day's inspirational theme with *Still I Rise and I Believe I Can Fly*. Much appreciation to all Volunteers and to Steve Haas of *SH! Acoustics* for providing sound and amplification.

## UPLIFTING SPIRITS SOAR FOR SURVIVORSHIP



White Doves Set Aloft



Movement of the Children Dancer of South Jamaica perform to *Still I Rise*

## SISTA AH CELEBRATES SURVIVORSHIP

**S**ISTA AH is a sponsored project of **Fractured Atlas**, a non-profit arts service organization.

Contributions in behalf of SISTA AH may be made to **Fractured Atlas** and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Endless thanks to everyone who has provided support.



**O**ctober was abound with festivities during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Yours truly celebrated the “double nickel” birthday; The Celebrating Life Foundation joined forces with SISTA AH to launch the *Still Celebrating Life portrait exhibition*; and survivors collectively rose to higher heights at The Annual Survivorship Saturday, a multi-media arts celebration which truly elevated us to another level.

Photo: Hubert Williams

Artfully yours,



Wilhelmina Obatola Grant  
Visual Artist,  
Cancer Survivor and  
Founder of SISTA AH

**T**he Mission of SISTA AH (Survivors Inspiring Sisters Through Art & Advocacy for Health, Inc.) is to inform and educate the community through visual art (and other mediums) to increase the awareness of the benefit of early detection of breast cancer. Improvement of survival rates is crucial for African American women – a population which suffers a disproportionately high rate of mortality despite being diagnosed less often than women in other ethnic groups.



SISTA AH seeks to encourage and facilitate access to early detection of breast cancer by connecting the medically underserved to no-cost screening services.

## MAKING ART FOR THE UNITED NATIONS...



Wilhelmina greets Madame Zuma, First Lady of South Africa.

**T**he artistic journey continues and SISTA AH's artistic endeavors have expanded to include the celebration of awareness and survivorship in the international arena. In September 2011 The International Diabetes Federation recruited ten artists who converged on the library at The New York Academy of Medicine to create 8' x 10' murals to bring world wide awareness and increase funding for four non-communicable diseases: diabetes, lung disease, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

The murals were presented at the **Second Health Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases at the United Nations**. The ten murals are scheduled to travel to Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and then to numerous countries throughout Europe.



Artists Patrice Gallway-Grant, Wilhelmina Grant and Jeremiah Drake relax beside their completed murals.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM SURVIVORSHIP SATURDAY IN HARLEM 2011



Rev. Monique Sutton and Sylvia Dunnivant



Rick Anthony Richards sings "I Believe I Can Fly"



D.G. Wilson-Davis, Event Planner/Emcee keeps a watchful eye

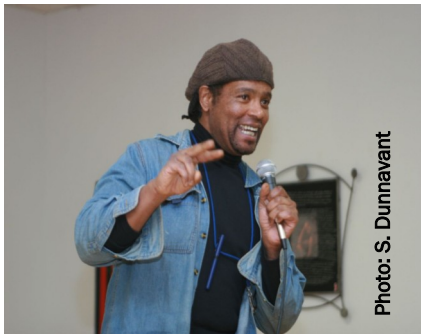


Photo: S. Dunnivant

Jeremiah Kyle Drake conducts Theater of the Oppressed Workshop



Shirley Carter shares her strength

## Survivor Spotlight

*A hearty congratulations to the sparkling and beautiful Wylene Neblett on a milestone celebration of cancer survivorship: Forty (40) years and counting...*



CouncilMember Dickens' Legislative Aide (Jerrel Burney) presents Citation



Dr. Bert M. Petersen, Jr., Director of Breast Surgery, St. Barnabas Hospital provides medical updates

Photos by Richard Conde (except where otherwise noted)



Sylvia Dunnivant, M.O.C. Dancers, Wilhelmina Grant, D.G. Wilson-Davis

Many thanks to the following for their time, talent and commitment to SISTA AH's mission.  
D.G. Wilson Davis  
Judy Dills  
Corrie Jennings  
Wylene Neblett  
Nokomis Adkins  
Eula Colbert  
Steve and Gina Haas





**WE'RE ON THE WEB  
AT  
WWW.SISTA AH.ORG**

**SURVIVORS INSPIRING  
SISTERS THROUGH ART  
& ADVOCACY FOR  
HEALTH, INC.**

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**"She who conceals her disease cannot expect  
to be cured." Ethiopian Proverb**

Special thanks to The SISTA AH SIREN Newsletter Advisors/  
Proofreaders: Sylvia Dunnivant, D.G. Wilson-Davis

## INTRODUCING MO, MY NEW COMPANION



Mo was rescued after a symbolic "White Dove" Release Ceremony which sent prayers, messages, wishes and dreams skyward during the annual Survivorship Saturday in Harlem. Mo did not fly away with the others and was discovered pacing back and forth in the evening darkness atop the freshly fallen snow. Taking responsibility for her

safety and well-being, I inquired at a pet shop about caring for my new houseguest. I purchased some bird seed and a cage and was reassured by the sales clerk that everything would be okay. Without knowledge of the recent events, he exclaimed, "Don't worry, you can't hurt a pigeon--they are *survivors*." (Wow!)

Mo spends her days cage-free, fluttering her wings, munching on seeds and grains, and strutting through the apartment. Her favorite pastimes are posing for photos and gazing at the pretty bird in the mirror.

### Transformation and Triumph!

An art exhibition presented by SISTA AH and  
The Celebrating Life Foundation

Featuring

***Clock Strikes Thirteen***

(Assemblage Art by Wilhelmina Grant)

And

***Still Celebrating Life***

(Portrait Exhibition by Sylvia Dunnivant)

CLOTH (Community League  
of the Heights)

2113B Amsterdam Ave. (165th St.)

New York, NY 10032

**Opening Reception:**

Sat. 1/14/12 (2:00 -6:00 p.m.)

**Closing Reception:**

Sat. 2/11/12 (2:00-6:00 p.m.)

(212) 926-3517 for more info