

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 .

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Survivorship Sunday in Harlem
- Survive and Thrive
- Clock Strikes Thirteen



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S U R V I V O R S H I P S U N D A Y I N H A R L E M

The first annual Survivorship Sunday in Harlem, sponsored by Senator Bill Perkins, celebrated the survivorship of cancer in women and men in the Harlem community. **Survivorship Sunday** united cancer survivors, caregivers, family, friends and healthcare professionals to honor survivors for their strength and courage, and to recognize the contributions of their supporters. The event which occurred on July 18, 2010 in the Art Gallery at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building, 163 W. 125th Street was attended by 150 guests.

Survivorship Sunday in Harlem featured Hoda Kotb, co-anchor of The Today Show and

Dateline NBC. Kotb, a breast cancer survivor was keynote speaker for the event and shared her strength regarding



Hoda Kotb, Award Winning Broadcast Journalist

journalist. Kotb informed listeners that faith was significant in the success of her career as well as her recovery from breast cancer. Kotb left the audience with a gem of wisdom that was given to her by someone who did not previously know of her encounter with breast cancer: "Don't hog your journey," she says - "Help another person by sharing your story."

her diagnosis and treatment. Kotb took the audience on a 20 minute journey of her life story as she described her struggle and determination to find work as a broadcast



Hoda Kotb and Wilhelmina Grant

S U R V I V E & T H R I V E

Survive & Thrive: Hope, Laughter and Truth is a newly released documentary DVD featuring Wilhelmina Grant and ten other breast cancer survivors sharing survivorship experiences during a retreat in Homer, Alaska. *Survive & Thrive* was developed for distribution to women living in

Alaska who are newly diagnosed with breast cancer. The 2-part DVD set includes survivors' stories and a Q&A segment by medical experts and can be ordered via website: www.Affinityfilms.org



THEATER OF THE OPPRESSED

The attendees of Survivorship Sunday in Harlem were delighted as well as informed during *The Aesthetics of Health*, an interactive session developed by Cultural Animator, Jeremiah Kyle Drake who utilizes techniques from the Theater of the Oppressed workshops.

As a Cultural Animator, Drake engages audiences to bring about awareness of their

power as participatory beings in their everyday lives.

Drake directed the Survivorship Sunday audience members in health-related problem-solving. The workshop stimulated creative thinking to recognize how images and sounds affect decision-making, and the importance of consumers taking action regarding personal health.

Drake describes the Theater of the Oppressed workshops as "a rehearsal for life." He conducts weekly sessions on Saturday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at The Riverside Church, Room 423, 91 Claremont Avenue (at 120th Street) New York, New York. For more information telephone (212) 870-6840 or email: jd Drake@theriversidechurchny.org



**Jeremiah Kyle Drake,
Cultural Animator**



*"Art is an experience, not a thing."
Marcel Duchamp*

HARLEM CELEBRATES LIFE

Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator, cancer survivor and event sponsor presents Wilhelmina Grant, founder of SISTA AH (Survivors Inspiring Sisters Through Art & Advocacy for Health, Inc.) with an official document proclaiming July 18, 2010 Survivorship Sunday in Harlem.



SISTA AH APPRECIATES THEIR AMAZING GRACE, DEDICATION AND TALENT



J. Drake, Dr. Arnold Thomas, D.G. Wilson-Davis, W. Grant & Dr. Winsome Grant



One Accord Dance Ministry of the Bethel Gospel Assembly



"To God Be The Glory" sings Evangelist Carolyn Johnson



Wilhelmina with C.B. – Organizer Extraordinaire!

CLOCK STRIKES THIRTEEN

OPENING RECEPTION



Razelle and Tyrone Townsend speak about their great-grand aunt, Fannie Lou (Townsend) Hamer

On March 11, 2010, a mixed-media assemblage art exhibition entitled *Clock Strikes Thirteen* celebrated its opening reception at the Countee Cullen Branch of the New York Public Library in Harlem.

Clock Strikes Thirteen commemorates the stellar journeys of 13 notable Black women who lost their lives to breast cancer.

Included in the exhibition are depictions of human rights activists Fannie Lou Hamer, June Jordan and Audre Lorde; actresses Rosalind Cash, Hattie McDaniel, Roxie Roker, Danitra Vance, Oni Faida Lampley and Alaina Reed; musicians Minnie Riperton, Syreeta Wright and Shirley Horn;

model/business-woman Naomi Sims and diplomat, Patricia Roberts Harris. Disturbingly, only four of these women lived past age 60.

A heartfelt appreciation goes out to the families for allowing the artist to pay homage to their loved ones.

This exhibition was created to bring into focus the continuous disparities and high mortality rates in the African-American community, and to accentuate the need for early detection and treatment.

The exhibition, on display at Workspace Harlem, **2340 Fifth Avenue**, New York, can be viewed by appointment. (212) 926-3517 or email sistaahhealth@aol.com

FAMILY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE FOR ART OPENING



Ade & Tommy Abney with art dedicated to their beloved, Oni Faida Lampley

Tyrone Townsend, examines art honoring Fannie Lou Hamer

Widower Alexander Erwiah observes three works honoring Naomi Sims

Siblings Helen Cash-Jackson and Robert Cash

CLOCK STRIKES THIRTEEN DISPLAY CONTINUES AT WORKSPACE HARLEM



Minnie Riperton, (31)

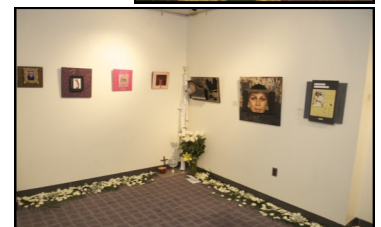


Fannie Lou Hamer, (59)



Hattie McDaniel, (57)

Ancestral Shrine in Honor of the Women Memorialized in *Clock Strikes Thirteen*



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



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

Wilhelmina Grant, Visual Artist
P.O. Box 824 Lincolnton Station
New York, NY 10037

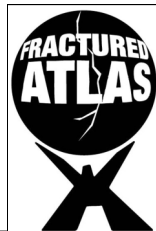
Phone: 212-926-3517
E-mail: sistaahhealth@aol.com

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

WELCOME TO THE SISTA AH SIREN

The mission of **SISTA AH** (Survivors Inspiring Sisters Through Art & Advocacy for Health, Inc.) is to inform and educate the community with visual art as a medium 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. Art with a purpose can be experienced by connecting the community with breast health resource information in tandem with SISTA AH's innovative, non-threatening methodology, the visual art exhibition.

SISTA 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.



www.SISTA AH.org
sistaahhealth@aol.com

Welcome to the SISTA AH SIREN! This newsletter represents an opportunity to update those who may have missed out on SISTA AH's Exhibitions and Special Events during 2010, and to keep in touch with those who have been there every step of the way. 2010 has been a truly amazing year filled with challenges, surprises and growth. I look forward to seeing what 2011 will bring.

Artfully yours,



Wilhelmina Obatola Grant, Visual Artist and
Founder of SISTA AH