



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

In 2003 Beverly Black Johnson founded Gumbo for the Soul Publications, and began a two-fold process of garnering support for what would be the first of a series of anthologies. Several years later she would establish Gumbo for the Soul Literacy Program. Gumbo for the Soul Publications has been able to give away hundreds of books since its inception through Gumbo for the Soul Literacy Program.

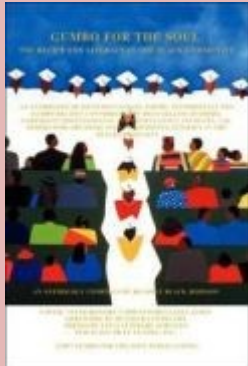
2003-2011

In the beginning: Gumbo for the Soul began as a savory blend of anthologies focusing on humanitarian issues effecting communities worldwide. Addressing health, education, wellness, and spirituality while offering philanthropy through inspirational, and informative publications. To date Gumbo for the Soul has released four books and launched a Blog Talk Radio show.

2012 - Gumbo for the Soul Publications evolved into Gumbo for the Soul International® and would expand its motto of *Shedding Light On Life* to *Shedding Light On Life Around The Globe*. For the first time since inception, additional genres are added to the spectrum creating separate book divisions. Children's books, Christian testimonials and fiction are just a few of the expanded genres.



The Publications:



In 2007, *Gumbo for the Soul: The Recipe for Literacy in the Black Community* was released seeking to address the soaring high school drop-out rate amongst our youth. Over 100 contributors worldwide were published in support of this effort which garnered a back cover comment from radio talk show host, Tavis Smiley, a foreword from now, NAACP Image award nominee, Heather Covington, 5 of 5 stars from Rawsistaz Reviewers, and two literary awards.

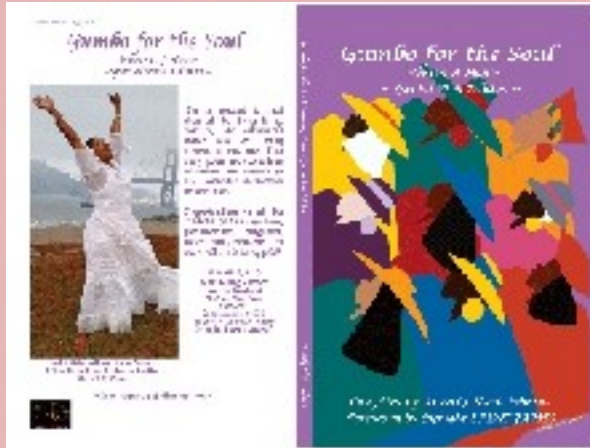


The 4th YOUnity Guild of America names *Gumbo for the Soul*- "Most Outstanding Anthology of the Year" and Blackrefer.com 3rd Annual Reviewer's Choice Awards names *Gumbo for the Soul* "Best Anthology" of 2007.



In 2008, *Gumbo for the Soul* releases, "Here's Our Child-Where's The Village?" Beverly Black Johnson said it best when she stated, "The question isn't here's our child, where's the village. The question is whose village will you be?"

Advocates emerged nation-wide including activist, lecturer and co-founder of Russell Simmon' Def Poetry Jam, Bruce George. Mr. George would lend the back cover comment, Tee C. Royal, founder of Rawsistaz Reviewer penned the foreword, and again supporters stir in essays and poetry that spoke to the hearts of those affected by adoption and foster care.



Women of Honor ~Special Pink Edition~

dropped in November 2010 honoring women making a difference in the contributors' life and shedding light about breast cancer. The back cover is adorned by a breast cancer survivor and the president of the San Francisco Chapter of Sister's Network Inc. Dr. Julia Hare of The Black Think Tank penned the back cover comment, while world renown artist, Synthia SAINT JAMES pens the foreword, and honors many including the great Lena Horne. Women shared their success stories, legacy of women raising families of strong torchbearers while a resource section offers additional information on all cancers affecting women. Women of Honor II in under development anticipating a March 2013 release.



Gumbo for the Soul: Men of Honor -Special Cancer Awareness Edition-

In loving memory of Homer J. Black, Sr.

Gumbo for the Soul: Men of Honor –Special Cancer Awareness Edition- encompasses a focus on humanitarianism, honor and the health concerns affecting men with a particular

focus on prostate cancer. This anthology reflects stories woven into our legacy, carried by time and preserved with love.

We share inspirational stories, quotes and poetry reflecting on the past and present times where he made a difference in life. Join us in celebrating the 'Men of Honor' impacting our lives worldwide, with purpose and dignity. This issue also focuses on the various cancers that affect men and was created as a gift to Project Fatherhood in partnership with the late Dr. Hershel Swinger. We want to encourage men to seek proper medical screenings which aids in early detection. This edition includes a resource section on other health concerns affecting men as well as an illustration on proper prostate self examination.

Co-compiled by Bruce George, Beverly Black Johnson and writers who generously shared reflections and information about their loved one. The foreword is penned by George C. Fraser.

Four people are honored in particular for their various contributions to humanity, and they are:

Michael Joe Jackson – Man of the Millennium

Homer Joe Black Sr. – Legacy of Honor

Lowell W. Perry Sr. – Legend of Honor

Bishop Desmond Tutu – Lifetime Legendary-Man of Honor

All titles are also available in E-book form. Proceeds and/or books are donated to various non-profit organizations that address the issues outlined in each publication. This kind of philanthropy is one of the many ways Gumbo gives back.

The Family:



Beverly Black Johnson ~ creator of Gumbo for the Soul International ®

Beverly Black Johnson conceived Gumbo for the Soul Publications in November 2003. She originally wanted to produce strictly inspirations but the concept needed depth and originality. "I needed something that addressed the concerns of the community", commented Ms. Johnson. "I remembered how some of our church youth struggled to read, and my child's playmate held back a grade that used to come over after school to study. When I looked into the literacy problems that plagued our youth, I found an alarming 50% high school drop-out rate!" Beverly redirected her plans, aiming the vision towards literacy. It didn't take long to realize Gumbo's first of a series of anthologies that would speak to the concerns of the community. Focusing on humanitarian issues like education, health and spiritual wellness, Gumbo for the Soul Publications is paving its own path having released four books with several more underway. Enlightening the community is one of Beverly's many passions shared through informative and interactive community workshops. Request Beverly for your event: gumboforthesoul@yahoo.com





~ Director of Business Development

CEO of [Bruce George Media](#), co-founder of the Peabody Award winning, HBO | Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam, [Bruce George](#), joined the family as Director of Business Development and an executive consultant in 2007. George adds his own savory touch by bringing to the Gumbo, professor, poet, [Nikki Giovanni](#) and [Sheron "Umi" Smith](#), mother of rapper Mos Def. All this talent blended to culminate [Gumbo For The Soul: Celebrity Moms](#)-the first of many more gems we expect to see coming from Mr. George. His vision for Celebrity Mom's gave birth to Gumbo for the Soul: Women of Honor ~Special Pink Edition~ Oct. 2010 and Gumbo for the Soul: Men of Honor Jan. 2012. We are so happy for the addition of this talented poet, visionary, entrepreneur and community activist!! Gumbo for the Soul [sponsorship](#) includes Mr. George's services. Restrictions apply.

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Synthia SAINT JAMES ~ Artist

"Gumbo for the Soul" publications embraces the bold and beautiful artwork of world renown [Synthia SAINT JAMES](#), fine artist, author, songwriter, and designer of the widely popular Kwanzaa postage stamp.

You'll find her work on over 50 book covers (which includes books by Alice Walker, Terry McMillan, Iyanla Vanzant and Julia Boyd), and on many licensed products. The United

**States Postal Service commissioned her to create the first Kwanzaa Stamp, made available on October 22, 1997 with the first issue day ceremony at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles.**

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**Rachel Berry aka Lady Serenity ~ Gumbo for the Soul Radio Hostess**

**Rachel Berry is the CEO of Kimathi Enterprises, an author, poet, entrepreneur, and radio show host of "From the Heart & Soul" radio. She is also the founder of Black Pearls United and The Vow Network, a soon to be launched global network of professionals that provide inspiration and life information. Visit her online at <http://rachelberry.webs.com/>**

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**Toni Beckham of PR et Cetera, Inc. ~ Media Expert**

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**Shawnda Tate ~ Senior Editor**

**[Shawnda Tate](#), formerly the editor-at-large of Gumbo for the Souls' *Perspective* column from 2007-2010, online. A gifted writer, Mrs. Tate brought interviews and thought provoking articles that sparked the brain!**



**Mrs. Tate did an outstanding job and we regret the discontinuance of 'Perspective'. We are happy that Mrs. Tate is involved with other Gumbo projects, doing her own thing and now stepping up in her new role as of November 2010 as our new Senior Editor.**



**Zaji ~ Design and Editorial Consultant**

**Zaji is the founder and CEO of Creative Ankh, a literary company for authors. Through Creative Ankh, Zaji provides authors with extensive graphics and editing services. Zaji earned her B.A. in English from Iona College where she graduated with honors in her major, and was inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. She received her M.S. in Journalism with honors from the same institution and will soon begin studies towards her Doctorate in Writing and Philosophy. She has worked with Oprah Magazine, Essence, Black Enterprise, Black Voices, Black Issues Book Review, Fierce, The Source, Kuji: The Lifestyle Guide to Self Enrichment, BlackNews.com and BlackPR.com, just to name a few. Please be sure to visit her online:**

**<http://www.thezaji.com> (personal) or <http://www.creative-ankh.com> (business)**

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**<http://www.gumboforthesoul.com/index.html>**

**A partial list of Gumbo for the Soul supporters:**

**Monique Miles Bruner \* Heather Covington \* Cheryl Lacey Donovan**

**Children's Institute Inc. \* Lorraine Elzia \* George C. Fraser**

**Bruce George \* Shelia M. Goss \* Michael Guinn**

**Stacia A. Hammond \* Nathasha Brooks-Harris \* Dr. Julia Hare**

**Lutisha Lovely \* Synthia SAINT JAMES \* Joylynn M. Jossel**

**Vanessa A. Johnson \* S. Raye Mitchell \* Pam Perry – Ministry Marketing Solutions**

**Pearl Jr. –The Michael Jackson Insider \* PR et Cetera, Inc-Toni Beckham**

**Project Fatherhood \* Sidalia G. Reel \* Vecepia Towery Robinson**

**Tee C. Royal \* Sister's Network Inc/San Francisco Chapter**

**Yvonne McCalla Sobers \* Tavis Smiley \* The late Dr. Herschel Swinger**

**\* United Black Student Union of California \* Marvin Winans, Jr.**



## **Press Releases**

**January 11, 2012**

**[Highly-Anticipated Anthology "GUMBO FOR THE SOUL: MEN OF HONOR" \(Special Cancer Awareness Edition\) Now available](#)**

**May 24,  
2011**

**["Gumbo for the Soul" Honors Bishop Tutu & Michael Jackson in "Men of Honor" Anthology | Call for Literary Submissions](#)**

**April 14,  
2011**

**[Gumbo for the Soul extends deadline for Men of Honor and welcomes to the family, Grammy Award nominated Gospel Artist, Marvin Winans Jr., PR Coach, Pam Perry, and Tony Rose-CEO-Amber Communications Group Inc.](#)**

**December 2,  
2010**

**[George C. Fraser \(Chairman and CEO of FraserNet, Inc.\) and Dr. Julia Hare \(National Executive Director of The Black Think Tank\) have joined the family with the fourth upcoming title Gumbo for the Soul: Men of Honor.](#)**

**October 2010**

**[Third in Anthology Series "Gumbo for the Soul: Women of Honor" Hits Book Stores](#)**

**September 2010**

**[Julia Hare, PH.D. comments on forthcoming anthology, Gumbo for the Soul: Women of Honor~Special Pink Edition](#)**

**June  
2010**

**[Call for Submissions~Gumbo for the Soul: Men of Honor-Special Cancer Awareness Edition](#)**

**August 2009**

**[Call for Submissions~Gumbo For The Soul: Women of Honor-Special Pink Edition](#)**

**June 2009**

**[Gumbo For The Soul announces Young Writers Division](#)**

**November 2008**

[Gumbo For The Soul drops book #2, proceeds to benefit African Cradle, a local adoption agency](#)

**August 2008**

[Beverly Black Johnson discusses Gumbo For The Soul on "Black Renaissance" with Dr. Brenda Wade](#)

**September  
2007**

[Nikki Giovanni pens foreword for Gumbo For The Soul, anthology # 3, Celebrity Moms](#)

**August  
2007**

[Tee C Royal pens foreword for Gumbo For The Soul, anthology #2, Here's Our Child, Where's The Village](#)

[Bruce George and Sheron 'Umi' Smith Join Gumbo for the Soul Publications](#)

**July 2007**

[Kwanzaa Postage Stamp Designer is Official Book Cover Artist for "Gumbo for the Soul" Anthologies](#)

**June 2007**

["Gumbo for the Soul" Creator to Speak at Los Angeles Leimert Park Village Book Festival](#)

**April 2007**

["Gumbo for the Soul" Literacy Program Benefits From Highly Anticipated Anthology](#)

**November**

**2006**

[Tavis Smiley Comments on "Gumbo for the Soul" Anthology](#)

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