

P.O. Box 22483, Seattle, WA 98122 206-860-4048

Spring 2010

April 23, 2010

Upcoming Conference and Monthly Meeting

- Saturday, May 15, 2010, 8AM - 4PM, BCDI/PRAXIS Spring Conference, 301 21st Avenue E, Seattle 98112
- Monthly Meeting, Saturday, June 19, 2010, 12:30PM — 3:30PM, at the Treehouse Building, 2100 24th Ave S., Seattle 98144, Conference Room 2C

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Dr. Joseph E. Marshall, Jr. is an author, lecturer, radio talk show host, & community activist. He is the founder of the *Alive & Free Movement* & the president of the Street Soldiers National Consortium, an organization dedicated to fighting violence nationwide. He is also the co-founder and Executive Director of the Omega Boys Club/Street Soldiers, a youth development & violence prevention organization headquartered in San Francisco that emphasizes academic achievement & noninvolvement with drugs. He is the author of the 1996 best-selling book, *Street Soldier: One Man's Struggle to Save a Generation, One Life at a Time*.

Luncheon Keynote — Dr. Joseph E. Marshall

“A Personal, Interpersonal and Community Prescription for Youth Violence Prevention”

BCDI/Praxis Spring Conference**May 15, 2010****NOVA (Meany Middle School) 301 21st Ave. E., Seattle 98112****8:00 am – 4:00 pm****8:00 am Registration/Continental Breakfast****9:00 am Plenary Keynote—Judge Judith Hightower, Seattle Municipal Court****“Who If Not US—Community Mobilization On Behalf of Our Children”**

10:00 am – 11:30 am Workshop Session I

11:45 am – 1:15 pm – Workshop Session II

1:30 pm Luncheon Keynote—Dr. Joseph E. MarshallDownload the conference brochure at: <http://www.bcdi-seattle.org/>

For more information—

call Germaine at 206-325-2426 or Wanda at 206-328-4452

President's Message—Dr. Wanda Hackett—President, BCDI-Seattle

Inspired—Motivated—Fired Up!

I'm still smiling four weeks after hearing about the 107 African American young men, 100% of the graduating class of Urban Prep Academy, a Chicago charter all male high school, all of whom have been accepted to college--**Inspiring!**

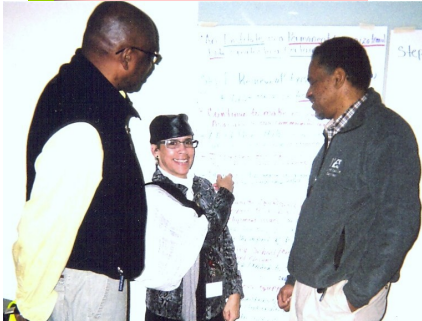
I just read an Ebony article about Leland Melvin (former NFL player) and Robert Satcher, Jr., two African American astronauts who last November completed an 11 day mission on the Space Shuttle Atlantis to the International Space Station—2 of only 500 people in the world to go into space! Last, I'm reading Dr. John Rich's book, "Wrong Place Wrong Time" about Black youth coming into Massachusetts General Hospital with gunshot wounds as a result of youth violence in Boston. Dr. Rich learns from their stories that whether gang involved or not, perpetrators or victims they have exactly the same goals as our Urban Prep graduates and NASA astronauts—a desire to "be somebody."

The mission of BCDI—the Seattle Affiliate is *"to look into the eyes and lives of African American children and families and advocate for positive social change. . . ."* Creating a community where our young people have every possible opportunity to become outstanding contributors (to become somebody—to not be socially invisible) fuels our work and keeps us **Motivated**. At the last 5 monthly meetings BCDI members have been working to develop the organization's 2010-2015 Priorities and Key Strategies (thanks everyone for your hard work). **Our objective is to focus our efforts for the next five years in three areas: Education, Child Welfare and Social Justice & Equity for Youth (JRA)**. We identified initiatives we will **Lead**, as well as, those we can **Collaborate** with other community leaders to implement, and there is work, of others, we will **Support**. **The details about our 2010-2015 initiatives will be shared at our May 15, 2010 Conference—Eliminate the Cradle to Prison Pipeline—Preparing Our Youth for Greatness!** We look forward to seeing and working with you at the Conference—**come prepared to get Fired Up!** We invite you to look for ways to lead, opportunities to collaborate and actions to support for Our Children. **Wanda Hackett, PhD**

Social Justice and Equity for Youth

"BCDI - Seattle Affiliate is initiating a new strategy in 2010 to embrace young black males and females who are exhibiting behavior that brings on incarceration. At the March 20 membership meeting, the Juvenile Justice co-chairs, James Staples and Garry Owens, laid out a short and long term work plan for this new direction.—Social Justice and Equity for Youth. They proposed that BCDI underwrite interested members to receive training in the "Street Soldiers/Alive & Free Violence Prevention Model" founded by Dr. Joe Marshall from the Bay Area (Dr. Marshall is the keynote for BCDI-Seattle's 2010 Spring Conference—see page 1). Also included in the new strategy is: hosting a workshop, event or forum for youth (e.g. Urban Lock-In); providing black history information for youth in JRA or King County Detention facilities; creating a tutorial for state lawmakers on the philosophy and practical application of "restorative justice" that includes the offender, the victim and the community; and creating the opportunity for Black youth to become lifetime BCDI members. James and Garry's intention is to 1) collaborate with several current partners such as CEER and others to do juvenile justice work, 2) create opportunities to team-up with NAC (Non-Profit Assistance Center), and 3) request a strategic dialogue with the new DSHS Secretary and other state agency heads on the issue of youth violence in the black community. They want to support key organizations who have already established a commitment to reducing and ending youth violence. The BCDI-Seattle process will also include drafting and disseminating a more comprehensive version of this new initiative. It is believed this approach will be successful because of youth empowerment, creating incentives for new progressive public policy and self-help opportunities. For more information, contact James Staples at stajam51@hotmail.com or Garry Owens at go-mojo@earthlink.net.

Garry Owens, Social Justice and Equity for Youth Co-Chair



James Staples, Social Justice and Equity for Youth Co-Chair, Dr. Hackett, BCDI-Seattle President; and Scholarship Chair Dwayne Evans



Scholarship Chair Dwayne Evans and a scholarship recipient

Spotlight on the Need for Community Involvement

The Coalition for Equal Education Rights (CEER) of which BCDI—Seattle Affiliate is a founding member, held its second community forum on youth violence prevention. More than 60 attendees representing community organizations, public child/youth agencies, parents and youth attended this two hour forum held at the Garfield Teen Center on November 11, 2009. Attendees submitted 38 “action commitment cards” their commitment to take ACTION personally to prevent youth violence. The event featured overview presentations from a panel of speakers including representatives of the Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, Seattle Public Schools, Attorney General’s Office, community and family members of their work to support youth violence prevention or their personal experience of youth violence. Forum attendees in small groups also described prevention efforts they are a part of from multiple perspectives (youth, family, faith-based community, nonprofit organizations, mid-level public agency management and senior level public officials) as well as service/support gaps.

Much to be commended was identified; however, attendee input illustrated a less than holistic approach across agencies with gaps in many important areas (e.g., prevention services and support to youth, identification and replication of effective youth and family interventions, cross agency collaborations, less than optimal involvement of families, etc.). The need for the active involvement of the African American community in this important work was apparent. This year’s BCDI May 15th conference featuring Dr. Joseph Marshall, co-founder of the Alive and Free philosophy, a prescription for youth violence prevention is one step towards honoring BCDI’s commitment to be actively involved. BCDI’s Social Justice and Equity for Youth Committee has also committed to work closely with CEER to keep a spotlight on and get the word out about ways to prevent youth violence which we will publish periodically here in the BCDI Newsletter.

Wanda Hackett, PhD

An Interview with a 2009 Scholarship Recipient

Black Child Development Institute of Seattle would like to introduce one of our 2009 scholarship recipients - **Travonna Wiley of Seattle**. Travonna is one of the BCDI-Seattle “\$1,000” scholarship recipients. She is a freshman at Clark Atlanta University as a freshman. Travonna is enrolled as a Fashion Design/Merchandizing major in the School of Arts and Sciences, where she plans to earn a BA degree. She is taking 16 credit hours including Art Foundation I, College Composition I, Algebra I, The Fundamentals of Speech and The Biblical Heritage. Even with this heavy line up of classes, it is clear that she loves the college experience and she loves being on the campus of a **Historically Black College or University (HBCU)**.

Travonna recently wrote to BCDI-Seattle, expressing her gratitude - “Thank you for awarding me the scholarship for 2009. I greatly appreciate it and now my dreams of a college career have come true because of all of you... It was so nice to be recognized by BCDI-Seattle.” Travonna has let her know that she would participate in this year’s Black Child Development Institute’s scholarship ceremony. She is willing to share information about her college experience to give motivation to high school seniors.

BCDI-Seattle thanks Travonna for her diligence, commitment and interest in assisting BCDI to accomplish its mission. We look forward to seeing T at our scholarship ceremony this June.

Dwayne Evans, Scholarship Chair

2010 Scholarship Application Deadline is June 4, 2010

BCDI-Seattle is awarding up to **\$1,000** in academic scholarships (nonrenewable) for high school graduates who plan to attend an accredited community college, college or university. As advocates for African American children, BCDI-Seattle is particularly interested in fostering careers in education or early childhood development; but will give other career choices full consideration. Only scholarship applicants will receive feedback regarding the awards. To qualify, an applicant must: be a high school graduating senior who is planning to attend college in the 2010-2011 academic year; have a 2.5 G.P.A.; have a financial need; demonstrate community involvement; possess good verbal and written communication skills; and reside in King County. Additional information and the application form can be found on the BCDI-Seattle web site at <http://www.bcdi-seattle.org/2010scholarship.html>

Dwayne Evans, Scholarship Chair



2009 Scholarship Recipients



Scholarship Chair Dwayne Evans and a scholarship recipient



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www.bcdi-seattle.org

Questions about the newsletter?
Contact newsletter@bcdi-seattle.org



Mizani James-McDaniel

Mizani has been an active BCDI-Seattle member for the past 10 years. She is a junior at Garfield High School in Seattle. In addition, Mizani participates in GirlsFirst; MESA; Garfield Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), President; and Mount Zion Baptist Church Youth Ministry, Co-President.

Where I am from

I'm from pickin' cotton
And runaway slaves
I'm from "no money"
And "Colored only" signs
I'm from "the country" in rural Louisiana
And "the city" in North Carolina
I'm from mom's strength, my dad's faith,
Grandma's endurance and papa's smarts!
I'm from People like no other,
And a nation like no other
I'm from the heat of the south
And the streets of rain and snow
I'm from the clan of John,
And two generations of John
I'm the best thing of Femi and John,
But I'm the best gift from GOD.

Mizani J. James-McDaniel*,
September 12, 2007.

2009 African American Legislative Day—a view from BCDI-Seattle teen member—Mizani James-McDaniel

Mizani attended the 2009 African American Legislative day with the Central area Chamber of Commerce. She felt that the entire experience was very informative and she enjoyed participating in the workshops. However, during the discussion of one issue, she felt there was definitely a disconnect between her generation and that of her grandparents. To bridge this gap, she recommends that teens read books about the struggles their grandparents went through to make things better for their grandchildren *and* that teens talk with their elders to find out how and why the elders feel about certain topics. Mizani thanks the YMCA Black Achievers for the opportunity to attend the 2009 African American Legislative Day.

*More about Mizani

At the time of writing the poem—**Where I am from**— Mizani was a freshman at Garfield High school. *Mizani is the daughter of Femi P. James and John McDaniel Jr. Mizani's maternal great-grandfather, John Rogers (clan of John), was born into a slave family, and later secured the family homestead in northern rural Louisiana. Mizani's paternal grandfather (papa), John McDaniel Sr. is from North Carolina. Mizani's maternal grandmother (grandma), Sadikifu Akina-James is the daughter of John Rogers.

Renew your BCDI-Seattle Membership!

BCDI-Seattle needs **YOU** to be a paid member of our community to make a difference in the lives of African American children and families. All of our work is done by our member volunteers, including putting on a dynamite conference each spring! (see page 1). The cost of a yearly membership is very inexpensive—\$20 for students and \$35 for a regular membership. Other levels of individual membership are \$100, and \$150. Organizational memberships are \$250 and \$500.

The membership form can be downloaded at <http://www.bcdi-seattle.org/joinus/membershipform.html>
Email membership@bcdi-seattle.org or Contact Membership Chair Elizabeth Thomas at 206-324-7024.

BCDI-Seattle Members and Friends are Invited—

To a **retirement** celebration for long time BCDI-Seattle member, **Sadikifu Akina-James**. Sadikifu retired from King County on April 15th. This public event will be held on—

Tuesday, April 11, 2010
4:30pm—6:30pm at the

New Holly Gathering Hall
7054 32nd Avenue S
Seattle, WA 98118