

August, 2010

Monthly Meetings

- Saturday, September 18, 2010, 12:30PM – 3:30PM, at the Treehouse Building, 2100 24th Ave S., Seattle 98144, Conference Room 2C
- Saturday, October 16, 2010, 12:30PM – 3:30PM, at the Treehouse Building, 2100 24th Ave S., Seattle 98144,
- Saturday, November 20, 2010, 12:30PM – 3:30PM, at the Treehouse Building, 2100 24th Ave S., Seattle 98144, Conference Room 2C

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Ms. Bunny Wilburn, BCDI-Seattle Founder and member, Council of Elders

Ms. Bunny Wilburn is the inspirational and beloved Founder of BCDI-Seattle. Over 30 years ago, Bunny decided there was a need for an organization that would advocate for the needs of Black Children. She gathered others together, including BCDI-Seattle's current president—

Dr. Wanda Hackett.. In addition to working as Director of a Child Care facility, Bunny helped to insure that BCDI-Seattle provided advocacy and training for African American child care providers. Later, BCDI-Seattle would expand to other issues and partner with the African American Child Care Task Force to continue to bring training and resources to African American child care providers.

BCDI-Seattle Establishes Council of Elders

At the 2010 Spring Conference, BCDI-Seattle installed the Founding Members of the BCDI-Seattle Council of Elders. The role of the Council is to provide "wise counsel" to the BCDI-Seattle Affiliate's Executive Committee and to hold the Executive Committee accountable to the Affiliate's commitments.

The Founding Council of Elders are each highly regarded in the community; loyal members, friends and supporters of BCDI; community leaders; and role models with demonstrated, unwavering commitment to Black Children.

The Council of Elders members are:

- **Ms. Bunny Wilburn**, founder of BCDI-Seattle
- **Ms. Fanny Williams**, early childhood educator/37 year founding member of BCDI Seattle and the Director of Primm ABC Child Care Center for 38 years,
- **Dr. Mona Lake Jones** past president of BCDI, educator and poet laureate of Seattle, and
- **Mr. Roscoe Bass**, retired educator and past principal of Garfield HS and Sharpless Alternative School
- **Dr. Zakiya Stewart** (posthumously), 30+ year member past president and Chair of the Education Committee for many years
- **Mrs. Edith Giles** (posthumously) 30+ year member who held every officer position except president

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



Dr. Zakiya Stewart,
posthumously installed
as a member of the
Council of Elders

Armed violence is occurring globally (on just about every continent whether termed a war or urban violence), one in three women worldwide will experience some form of domestic violence, in 1998 in the US women experienced 900,000 acts of violence and Black women and men suffer from the highest rate of domestic violence in the US. Bullying in schools is deemed the “most prevalent form of violence in our society” with between 15% and 30% of students being either victims or bullies!

How do we protect our children in a world filled with violence?

This question was examined by 25 attendees of the Omega Boys Club/Street Soldiers “Alive and Free” training July 19-21, 2010 in San Francisco conducted by Dr. Joe Marshall (our May 15, 2010 key note speaker). It was my honor to be a part of the group. I participated in 3 days of intense training, dialogue and observation of the Alive and Free philosophy in action. It was my pleasure to observe the result of the Alive and Free philosophy—to bear witness to a classroom of 30 Omega Boys Club students (ages 11 to 17, mostly boys) working together for three hours (5:30 pm to 8:30 pm) with one teacher to learn math and a second teacher to learn language arts in an environment of respect, right action and peer mentoring (student to student). Everyone was on task, courteous, and dare I say loving with one another. There was zero drama, disrespect or inappropriate behavior. No one had to be singled out for discipline. These were “typical” students from some of the most impoverished and vulnerable Bay Area neighborhoods (these young people were either high risk for gang recruitment, or had been in gangs). I’ve observed many classrooms over the years so when I say this experience was impressive, it was extraordinarily so. I’ve also attended many training sessions, but none have been as potentially important to the well being of our children or as effective in presenting hands on solutions for prevention, intervention or rehabilitation of youth violence as this one! **Absolutely OUTSTANDING!!!! I left**

Inspired, Motivated and Ready to Join with YOU to Take Action!

Now we get down to serious business, bringing this “prescription for youth violence prevention” to the BCDI/Seattle grassroots community. If you attended the BCDI May 15, 2010 Conference you know that one of our 2010-2015 Strategic Initiatives is to create an Alive and Free Virtual Training Center. We want to surround African American children of all ages with the Alive and Free prescription for youth violence prevention. Our vision is that families and extended family members, child care providers, church leaders/Sunday School teachers, after school program and youth program staff, etc. neighborhood by neighborhood will be trained in the Alive and Free prescription and use it to inoculate the children they touch using ONE consistent message—the Alive and Free prescription!

Stay tuned for more information about Alive and Free in Seattle training opportunities (we will bring Dr. Marshall back to Seattle to conduct Alive and Free training) beginning in late fall of 2010. Want to begin to explore the Alive and Free concepts now? I highly recommend reading Dr. Marshall’s book, Street Soldiers, which is only available from BCDI member and Social Justice and Equity for Youth (SJEY) subcommittee chair James Staples or through the Omega Boys Club. You can contact James at stajam51@hotmail.com



Ms. Edith Giles, posthu-
mously installed as a
member of the Council
of Elders

Education Committee Report

"Schooling is what happens inside the walls of the school, some of which is educational. Education happens everywhere, and it happens from the moment a child is born—some say before—until it dies."

Sara Lawrence Lightfoot



Dr. Debra Sullivan, Education Committee chair, BCDI-Seattle

The Education Committee sprang into action at our Spring conference. Twelve conference attendees volunteered to send monthly postcards to Seattle Public School Board members and State Legislators reminding them of their role in making sure Black children have access to high quality education and high quality teachers. Two others volunteered to help promote the NBCDI Parent Empowerment Program (PEP) in child care centers and Entering the College Zone (ECZ) with middle school students. The Education Committee is also planning to support a curriculum symposium being offered by The Praxis Institute for Early Childhood Education this fall (tentatively scheduled for September 18). The symposium will focus on a variety of curricula currently used in our area and the features of each that constitute the best academic practice with children of African descent. Teachers of children of any age, families, foster parents, and all advocates who work on behalf of Black children are encouraged to attend. More information on this exciting and useful event will be available this summer.

If you would like to 1) join the Education Committee, 2) mail monthly postcards, 3) help promote PEP or ECZ, or 4) receive more information about the Praxis ECE fall symposium please contact me at drsullivan@praxis-ece.org or call me at 206.328.5818.

The May 15th BCDI spring conference Eliminate the Cradle to Prison Pipeline: Preparing our Youth for Greatness was Outstanding! To quote our president, Dr. Wanda Hackett, everyone she spoke with raved about what a GREAT conference they had experienced. One young woman stopped me and told me "her workshops/keynote, etc. was the BEST training she had ever been to in her life," she said she would definitely be getting involved.

This sentiment was echoed many times during the day by the 69 conference participants. I'm sure everyone who worked on the conference had at least 10-20 similar stories. A sampling of the evaluations supported these statements. Conference participants wrote that as a result of the training they would:

- do more outreach to youth
- Move towards a movement for change
- Share information with other educators
- Begin a dialogue with co-workers to plan action steps to help children
- Work to offer literacy skill development to families
- Be available to help with prevention work
- Focus on the importance of developing attachment: nurturing 1-1 relationships
- Work to incorporate data and promote change
- Build better relationships with families
- Continue making people aware of policy/procedure that is detrimental to youth

(continued on page 4)



Mr. Roscoe Bass, installed as a member of the Council of Elders



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Questions about the newsletter?
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BLACK CHILD
DEVELOPMENT
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Seattle



Dr. Joseph E Marshall, BCDI-Seattle Spring Conference keynote, received the Black Child Development Institute Seattle Affiliate prestigious **Dr. Zakiya Stewart courageous leadership award**. See page 2 in this newsletter for a report on Dr. Marshall's "Alive and Free" training. Dr. Wanda Hackett, BCDI-President, Participated in the "Alive and Free" training



Dr. Mona Lake Jones, installed as a member of the Council of Elders

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>



Ms. Fannie Williams. Installed as a member of the Council of Elders

May 15th BCDI-Spring Conference, continued

EVERYONE played an important role--it took a Village and the Village was there in every possible way just pitching in, getting it done and making it happen. We thank the following donors and non member volunteers: -

Asante—with Sincere Appreciation

Mark Anthony and Stan Evans, Signage and Posters; Joseph Baker and Sons Catering; Casey Family Programs Luncheon Sponsor; Denise Holmes & Monique Franklin, Nova High School; Nova for Facility Support; Chuck Stempler for Brochure Printing; Seattle Early Education Collaborative (SEEC

What a day, we made new friends, reconnected with old friends, signed up new members, accepted folks' willingness to help with "tasks," presented and received valuable information--**living OUR Mission!**

The event was taped and can be viewed on the Seattle Channel. <http://www.seattlechannel.org/>

Once on the site search using the title of the show "A Community Prescription for Youth Violence Prevention".

This training conference also provided useful information to empower and mobilize participants to take active steps to improve the lives of African American children.