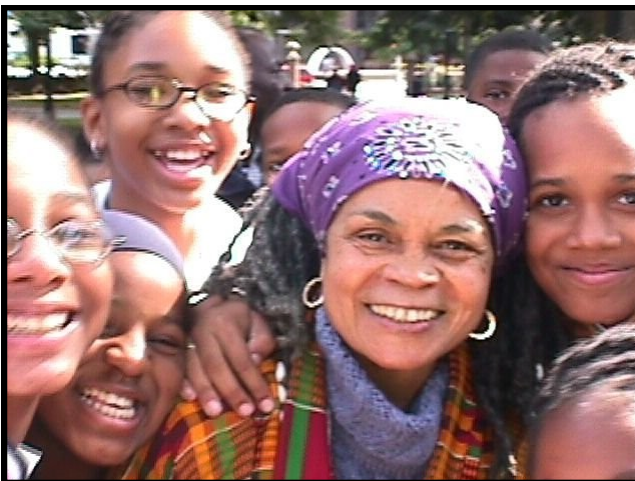
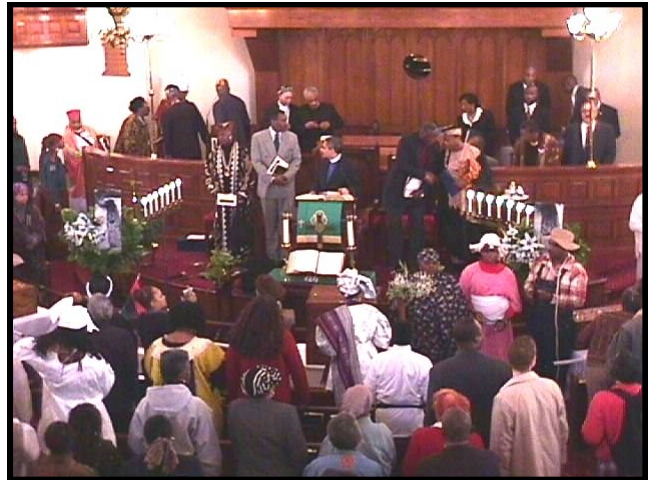


THE LOTUS LAMP

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Tribute To The Ancestors



The Lotus Academy Upper School took part in a very important living history lesson and paid tribute to our ancestors at the same time. Read the article on page two for a full account of a most memorable day.

**"You can not continue to oppress a consciously historical people.
DR. JOHN HENRI CLARKE**

African Burial Ground

The Upper School students and staff of Lotus Academy were among the many privileged attendees who had the opportunity to participate in an event of a lifetime. On Thursday, October 2, 2003, Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church was host to hundreds of guests who witnessed the arrival of the remains of four of our beloved ancestors that were found in an African burial ground in New York City.

The remains have been in Washington, D.C. where the research staff of Howard University forensically identified them over the past several years. A final resting place has been established in New York City where the tribute ended with these and other remains being re-interred on October 4, 2003. The ceremony was very moving as we heard words of wisdom and historical value from Dr. Molefi Asante, Minister Rodney Muhammad, Sister Sonya Sanchez, Mr. Charles Blockson and many other members from the African cultural community in Philadelphia.

The tribute ended with a beautiful procession to Congo Square, 7th and Walnut Streets, where libations were poured, prayers for our ancestors were said, and doves (*see the photos on front page*) were released as a symbol of peace.

[Article by Mothura Marcia]

Educational Advisor

One of the most positive additions to the Lotus Academy staff in many a year is Mothura Elizabeth Riley, a retired principal from the School District of Philadelphia and a vast reservoir of practical experience and insight. She is the K-8 Educational Advisor, and has been invaluable in curriculum planning and teacher training. She is leading the Upper School's participation in the Reader's Digest Word Power Contest this year. You may contact her about our academic program by calling her at the main office at 215-438-7500.

Lotus Academy Advisory Council

The Lotus Academy Advisory Council will have its second meeting of the school year on Wednesday, November 12th, at 6:00 p.m. (the meetings will be the second *Wednesday* of each month for the rest of the year). The first meeting in October brought out a number of parents, but we would like to have even more of our parents come out and lend their voice to a very important body.

The Early Learning Center was well represented at the October meeting, and there was a good mix of new parents along with those who have been with Lotus for a while. There are a number of exciting things that have begun to happen already and that are in the planning stage. Come out and be a part of it.

The Lotus Academy (K-8th) will be CLOSED on Thursday and Friday, November 27th and 28th. Early Learning Center parents should be reminded that the E.L.C. will be closed only on Thursday, November 27th, and will be open during its usual hours on Friday, November 28th.

Early Learning Center Book Drive Begins

All of our Lotus parents and supporters are encouraged to support the **Early Learning Center Book Drive**. It is a first-time event brought to the entire Lotus family by our very active and energetic parents from the ELC. We hope that they keep up the outpouring of good ideas that, more importantly, get translated into real projects. In their own words, Dietrich Rush sends out the following message.

"In the spirit of "UJIMA", the parents of the Early Learning Center (ELC) will be sponsoring a Book Drive for our young students (Shana I and Shana II). Donations of new and/or slightly used books may be placed in the designated bins located at both the main building and at the ELC. The Book Drive will run from Tuesday, November 4th to Monday, December 1st."

This ELC project is such a worthwhile venture that we hope that everyone gets behind it and makes it an unqualified success. There is almost nothing that is more important for our young students than to begin the road to becoming avid readers. We all know that a variety of interesting reading material adds to the interest and enthusiasm that motivates all young readers. We also know that the best readers are usually those who have the good fortune to be able to start at such an early age.

Early Learning Center Bake Sale

Also, from the ELC, Ameena Atif lets us all in on the following news from the ELC parents.

“We welcome your support of our Bake Sale. Some of our dessert lovers’ delights include: Carrot Cakes (vegan and regular), Five Flavor Pound Cakes, Cream Cheese Pound Cakes, Strawberry or Blueberry Shortcake Cheesecakes, Chocolate Lovers’ Fall Surprise (vegan), Mini Black Bottom Cheesecake Party Tray, Sweet Potato Pies, and Chocolate Chip Cookie Tins and Sacks. We have other delights as well (see our full brochure and order form!). All orders must be placed by Wednesday, November 19th, at which time your money is due. The order pick-up date is Tuesday, November 25th. All orders will be delivered to the ELC or the K-8 main building at the end of the school day on that Tuesday.”

This selection of desserts does not need any elaboration. It speaks for itself! You are urged to get your orders in as early as possible to avoid the rush for what surely will be a very successful fundraising project. The Bake Sale is being organized for the “technology & arts fundraising project” of the ELC, and all proceeds will be used to support the exciting plans that we have for using “parent power” to add even more technical and creative dimensions to the ELC program.

For additional information about the ELC Bake Sale, please contact Kim Wilson-Mander at 215-753-0690 or at kwmander@mail.med.upenn.edu. You may also call Ameena Atif at 215-549-1786 or reach her by e-mail at alamin@mail.med.upenn.edu.

Lotus Trip To Ghana

As part of the Lotus Academy celebration of its 30th year Pearl Anniversary, we are planning to organize another trip to Ghana during the last week of July, 2004. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please let us know by calling the office and leaving your name and phone number or by e-mailing us at ghana@lotusacademy.org.

The group of travelers to all of the memorable sites in Accra, Cape Coast, and Kumasi will be limited to twenty, so you should contact us right away if you are interested. The group will primarily be made up of Lotus staff, parents, and students (preferably age 12 and above), though we welcome anyone who is interested in “going back home” for a vacation that will never be forgotten. The total cost of the trip is approximately \$1,800 per person for a seven-day stay at some of the best hotels in the country. We are in the process of organizing a couple of fund-raising projects for those who would like to reduce the amount of out-of-pocket money that they will have to put out to make the trip and be a part of the Lotus contingent.

Final decisions and details will be completed by the end of December, and the installment payment plan will begin in January. We look forward to hearing from those who are interested in getting more information about a fascinating travel opportunity.

It's Metric!

[This article and the photos on the back page of this *Lotus Lamp* were done by *Mothura Marcia* as part of the study of the metric system.]

National Metric Week was celebrated during the week of October 6th-10th. The entire school participated in the celebration by expanding our knowledge and application of the metric system in a number of ways. The 8th graders developed lesson plans that were implemented in the K-4 classrooms. The students did a fine job of sharing basic information about the metric system with the Lower School students. They measured the hands and/or feet of all students and staff members in metric units. The hand and footprints were cut out by Vishna I and Shava II and then added to a banner that read, “Hand in Hand, Step by Step, We’re Learning the Metric System.” Our week-long celebration ended with a school-wide rendition of the Electric Slide, which, for this special occasion, was aptly renamed, “The Metric Slide.”

Lotus Board Of Directors

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lotus Academy is set for Wednesday, November 19th, at 5:45 p.m. at the Lotus Academy. One of our Early Learning Center parents, Robert Miller, attended our last Board meeting, and contributed some vital ideas to the discussion. The next meeting will focus on physical plant issues as well as upcoming special events. E-mail us at board@lotusacademy.org if you would like more information about the Lotus Board of Directors.

Learning The Intricacies of Mathematics In The Inimitable Style Of The Lotus Academy

The Vishna students, guided by Mothura Marcia, showed how much fun and participation can be crammed into a sophisticated learning experience as they developed lesson plans and educational materials to master the intricacies of the metric system as it

is applied to measurement. The whole school got into the process as the Vishna class walked everyone through their paces. See the article on page three for a full account of higher mathematics in action by students who learn by independent thinking and doing.



"The image sees, the image feels. The image acts. And if you want to change a situation, you have to change the image men have of themselves and their situation."

LERONE BENNET, JR.