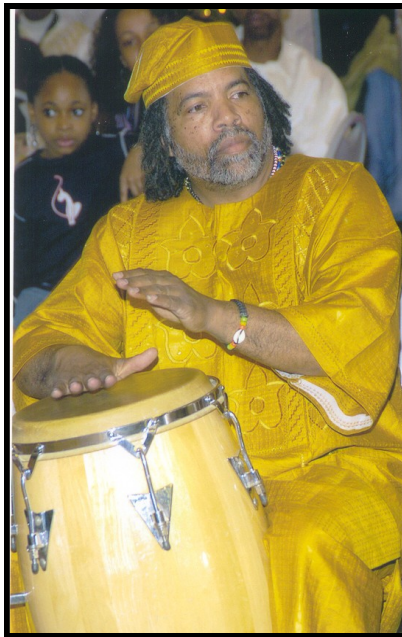


# THE LOTUS LAMP

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## Fashion And Culture At Lotus



**"I am African not because I was born in Africa, but because Africa was born in me."  
ANONYMOUS**

# Fashion Show VI

Cachelle Ink is a photo and graphic design studio, owned and operated by Shoana Clarke Sayeh, that also organizes and presents events. They were the group that collaborated with Lotus to produce a fashion show that was stunning in its originality on April 3rd.

The pictures on the front page capture some of the beauty of the fashion show, but can do little to convey the majesty of the music and the vibrancy of the dance that were interwoven into the display of fashion. The variety of fashion—hip hop, traditional, formal—that was presented covered the entire spectrum of tastes, ages, and gender.

The entire Fashion Show was built around a story of a young couple who ended up being married in a very authentic African wedding. All of this was accented by the Jackson brothers on the drums (Hank, Wayne, and Jeffrey), Mothuri Afriye Ware in a dance number, and our Lotus students modeling in the Show and performing their own music and dance pieces.

The DJ for the event was just phenomenal as he blended all types of music to give the entire event an urban contemporary feel that was complemented by deep African roots. The turnout was outstanding, as we had close to two hundred come out to enjoy the essence of African and urban style, fashion, and culture.

# Lotus Student Science Expo

Next Wednesday will mark the culmination of months of work on class and individual science projects when the annual Science Exposition takes place at the Lotus Academy, on Wednesday, April 28th, at 7:00 p.m. You must see these projects to appreciate our students' talents! The Lower School will present their group projects and the Upper School will show off their personal projects. We also would like to extend our thanks to Jacqueline Johnson, one of our most active parents, for accompanying our student representatives, Kashif Smith, Kamari Clark, and Kasia Taylor to sunny Los Angeles, CA this weekend to participate in the national CIBI Science Fair.

# Newest Lotus Staff Member

For those who have been around the main office, you probably noticed one of the newest employees, Shannon Moore. She is a recent graduate of Temple University in communications, and she was hired to assist with various administrative tasks at both the Lotus Academy and Early Learning Center. She has fit right in with the culture and the work ethic that defines Lotus, and we realize that we are fortunate to have someone of her ability and enthusiasm as a part of our "team".

# Scientists, Inventors Visit Shaish II Students

You did not have to believe in reincarnation to appreciate the return of many famous Black scientists and inventors in the person of our Shaish II students on March 5th. They brought back into our memory the lives and works of significant contributors to the world scene. They armed themselves with life facts, dressed up as their look-alikes, and created replicas of their discoveries or inventions. It was quite a spectacle to see them walk into the school and embody the person who they had studied.

The participants were Kyla Ayers (Benjamin Banneker), LaShawn Ayers (Michael Croslin), Taylor Bains (Jan E. Matzeilger), Barry Bettis (Samuel Crawford), Ayo Bowman (O. E. Brown), Kayla Brown (Madame C. J. Walker), Ibn Craddock (Henry Sampson), Sha-Ree Davis (Sarah Boone), Marquelle Edwards (Granville T. Woods), Bobbi Hannah (Augustus Jackson), Javan Lessane (Garrett Morgan), Jordun Payne (George Washington Carver), and Rae'Quan Williams (Joseph Winters). The students and Mothura Margaret did a great job of celebrating our his-

**A reminder that the Alumni Basketball Game has been re-scheduled for Saturday, May 8th, 1:00 p.m., at Simons Recreation Center in West Oak Lane. We are looking for our staff, parents, students and, of course, alumni to come out for an afternoon of good clean fun and competition—and a whole lot of exercise!!!**

# African Centered Educational Conference

The Lotus Academy will be hosting its sixth annual African Centered Educational Conference on Friday afternoon (May 21st) and all day on Saturday (May 22nd). It will take place at the school and will feature a variety of workshops, seminars, and activities for adults and children that will give greater insight into teaching our young people from the perspective of their own identity and history.

The topics that will be covered will include teaching strategies, techniques for parents to make their children better students, project based learning models, technology in the classroom, and African aesthetics. There is a separate program for our young people that begins on Friday at 6:00 p.m. with the showing of a film, and continues on Saturday with a full day of fun-filled and educationally enriching activities.

The Conference is free, but there is a charge for the Friday or Saturday luncheon that all participants must pay (adults \$8.00 and children \$4.00). In addition, everyone must pre-register by Wednesday, May 19th, in order to be included in the workshops and seminars of their choice. There is information included in this mailing that will allow those who are interested to register and order lunch. Call the office if you have questions, or e-mail [conference@lotusacademy.org](mailto:conference@lotusacademy.org) for more information about the event.

# Awards Banquet

Lotus' sixteenth annual Achievement Awards Banquet will be held at the Hilton Hotel on City Avenue on Thursday, May 27th, starting at 5:30 p.m. As always, it will mark the end of the school year, and offer us an opportunity to congratulate the parents, teachers, students, and supporters who have made the Lotus Academy such a very special place this year.

In addition to the awards, there will be entertainment, student presentations, and a keynote address from Dr. Molefi Asante, noted scholar and historian. It promises to be a night of lavish celebration and fellowship.

Tickets are now on sale and are only \$35.00 for those connected to Lotus (\$50.00 for the general public). There will also be a 30th anniversary souvenir program booklet that will recognize the graduates and our Lotus staff.

## Lotus Academy Advisory Council

The Lotus Academy Advisory Council has scheduled its final meeting for the school year on Wednesday, May 12th, at the usual time of 5:45 pm. It is a very important meeting that you should attend, and it will be devoted to finishing out this year's activities and planning for the annual "Spring Fling" on June 5th at Dorney Park.

## New Media Technology Charter School

The Lotus Academy recently joined with the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) to submit an application to the School District of Philadelphia for a charter high school. Amid intense competition, a charter was granted to Lotus, and we are scheduled to open the New Media Technology Charter School to sixty ninth-grade students in September, 2004. The school will be based upon a "project-based learning" model and will be limited to fifty students in each grade interested in digital multimedia.

As proud as we are of our new high school, parents should be clear that this "charter" from the School District does not impact or affect the Lotus Academy (K-8th) in any way. We will continue to maintain our independent, private African-centered program as we have done for the last thirty years. If you would like more information, e-mail us at [charter@lotusacademy.org](mailto:charter@lotusacademy.org)

## Lotus Board Of Directors

The last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lotus Academy is set for Thursday, June 24th, at 5:45 p.m. at the Lotus Academy. As we approach the end of the school year, there are a number of important issues to consider, including admissions and our plans to upgrade the physical plant at our main building. Please e-mail us at [board@lotusacademy.org](mailto:board@lotusacademy.org) if you would like more information about the Lotus Academy Board of Directors.

# Seasonal Celebration Brings In Spring



“Old Man Winter” was shown the door as the many participants at the Seasonal Celebration brought in a long awaited spring season a few weeks ago. As usual, the day was marked by a great morning of entertainment and a colorful celebration of the students’ birthdays that had come during the winter months.

Everyone was treated to an extraordinary dance performance by Ione Nash (*pictured below*), whose spirited dance routine made it all but impossible to believe that she is “seventy something”. She also added her own brand of energy to the event by getting the students up and dancing. All in all, it was one more Lotus Seasonal Celebration to remember for the plentiful fun, food, and fanfare that it offered.



**“All educational ideas are therefore ideas about culture. The process of education is a process of socializing students into a particular social structure.”**  
**MOLEFI ASANTE**