



NEWS FROM THE EMERGENCE COMMUNITY ARTS COLLECTIVE
SEPTEMBER 2006

Mission

ECAC's mission is to build community through cultural arts, education and positive social interaction. We offer classes, workshops, social gatherings and events that are open to the community. Our active volunteer program was born out of the belief that everyone has something to contribute to their community, no matter how small.

Board of Directors

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THE ECAC "SHEROES"

Once things had slowed down a bit here at the Emergence Community Arts Collective, I turned to an interesting question: Just who was the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, previous owner of this property? What role did they play in the history of this community? I was fortunate this summer to have the assistance of rising 9th grader Naeema Getrouw to help me answer that question. As part of her summer internship we uncovered a rich history of African American women and their courage and dedication to making a better life for the free Africans after the Civil War.

The National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children was formed in 1863 by an Act of Congress to house and care for the children and elderly women that were literally in the streets after the Civil War. Their original building was in Georgetown, at the site of what is now the Duke Ellington School. It moved in 1866 to the site of Banneker High School, then to 733 Euclid St. in the early 1900s. For 64 years this organization provided food, shelter, medical care and education to its "inmates" as they were called, even as the financial allocations from Congress dissipated. A look at the annual reports reveal that its survival was due to the efforts of women – prominent African American women - who were outspoken in their call for justice. Elizabeth Keckley, Josephine Beall Bruce, Helen Appo Cook, Charlotte L. Forten Grimke, Dr. Rebecca Cole, and Marie Meriwether are among the names of those who were part of the Association and the movement to house and educate African Americans.

The more I research, the more I know that this is a story that needs to be told. It also makes me realize that if there is this much history in this one building, what other untold stories are a part of Pleasant Plains? ECAC has applied for funding to document and display the legacy of 733 Euclid St., and is also interested in knowing more about the history of the community. Anyone who has stories, research or photos they would like to share, please contact me.

Sylvia Robinson, Executive Dir.



Summer intern Naeema Getrouw

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT ECAC?

It's been a long hot summer but never a dull moment at The Emergence Community Arts Collective.

May 20 was a special day when we had 47 volunteers from the **Greater DC Cares Servathon** come to ECAC for an afternoon of service. In three hours time they were able to paint the front porch, trim and rails, clear the west side lot of brush, remove the ivy that was suffocating the Japanese Maple in the front yard, clear and level the area underneath the front porch and arrange the planters under the porch. Each year Greater DC Cares organizes thousands of volunteers to participate in projects at non-profits throughout the city. Furthermore, they provide paint, tools and supplies as well as project management and coordination. All I needed to do was watch and take photos. Many thanks to all for helping ECAC be a more presentable neighbor.

The **ECAC Memorial Day Cookout and Open House** May 29th was a wonderful opportunity for friends and neighbors to get out and see what's been happening at ECAC. Chicken and veggie burgers were on the menu as folks lined up in the summer heat to plates of food and cold

drinks. The award-winning Star Makers Academy of Dance opened the show followed by the Trini-Pan America Steel Pan Academy, International Capoeira Angola Foundation and the progressive Hip Hop group Triflava. ECAC also welcomed mayoral candidates Marie Johns and Vin-



Berimabu practice at ICAF

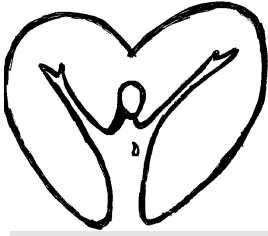


Greater DC Cares give ECAC a makeover

cent Orange who seemed impressed with our progress.

The **International Capoeira Angola Foundation** blossomed this summer with many more new students and a positive contribution to the cultural arts of the community. The African Brazilian martial artform not only attracts energetic youth because of its practice, but also teaches lessons in African tradition and slave resistance as well. The group has been busy this summer preparing for their 12th Annual Capoeira Angola Encounter, a gathering of Capoeira mestres, practitioners and scholars from all over the world. This year's gathering will be August 24-27 At Prince William Forest Park. Activities will be preceded by an opening event at ECAC.

During July we welcomed the **United Nation of Individuals Fighting Impossibilities (UNIFI)** who conducted part of their summer youth program at ECAC three days a week. UNIFI is a holistic wellness organization established to make perceived impossibilities possible. Through unification, education, vocation, self-sufficiency and esteem combined with the arts, UNIFI empowers at-risk youth and young ex-prisoners to help them understand the purpose of life and to understand their purpose in life. Part of their curriculum included community service, so every Friday they contributed to ECAC by painting ex-



**UPCOMING EVENTS AT
THE EMERGENCE COMMUNITY ARTS COLLECTIVE
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2006
(202) 462-2285 WWW.ECACOLLECTIVE.ORG**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Every Saturday through October 7th from 1-3pm:
Women's Grief Workshops**

Women Empowering Women and Girls Through The Arts Inc., will host a free twelve week program where participants who have experienced the loss of a parent, spouse, child etc. will go through the various stages of the grief process by engaging in art activities such as singing, poetry writing and acting. Interested participants should contact Executive Director, Angela Muhammad at 301.516.6060 or email at wewaginc@yahoo.com. Cost: Free

Friday August 25 @ 7pm: Becoming a Spiritual Warrior

Alan Harris will present a talk on how to use the principles of the Toltec Spiritual Warrior to address our spiritual challenges today. The Toltec mystery school traditions were made famous by Carlos Castaneda's books on his experience with Yaqui shaman Don Juan Matus. The Toltecs tried to achieve a clarity of vision and enough personal power to get out of the Tonal (the world of illusion) and learned many valuable lessons from their efforts. Cost: \$10

**Saturday August 26 and September 23rd @ 7pm:
The Emerging Women's Circle**

The Emerging Women's Circle is a growing community of women who are embarking on new paths in life. As the world aspires to a higher consciousness, women lead the effort in the struggle to balance awakening passions with the current lifestyle. The Emerging Women's Circle is a monthly gathering of women who desire to share and network with others in the process of nurturing these new aspirations. Find out how other women are integrating new projects, careers, and education into their current roles. Cost: Donation + dish to share

Tuesdays starting September 5th @ 7pm: Kundalini Yoga

Kundalini Yoga is "The Yoga of Awareness." It gives a healthy and radiant body, a peaceful mind and the strength to meet life's challenges and win. Kundalini Yoga uses poses, breathwork, chanting and meditation. Its unique rhythmic exercises, with specific breath pattern, open the body and increase blood circulation, strength, flexibility and

AUG/SEP WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Mondays

6:00 pm—Capoeira Music
7:00 pm—Capoeira (intermediate)
7:00 pm – Youth Open Mike

Tuesdays

5:00 pm – Capoeira Children's Class
6:00 pm—Tap I (ages 5-6)
6:00pm— Hip Hop II (ages 7-9)
7:00 pm – Tai Chi
7:00 pm— Kundalini Yoga
7:00 pm – Capoeira Beginning Class

Wednesdays

6:00 pm– Capoeira Music
6:00 pm—Tap II (ages 7-9)
6:00 pm—Hip Hop III (ages 10 to teen)
7:00 pm—Tap III (ages 10 to teen)
7:00 pm—Capoeira (intermediate)

Thursdays

5:00 pm – Capoeira Children's Class
7:00 pm – Capoeira Beginning Class
7:00 pm – Codependents Anonymous

Fridays

6:00 pm—Jazz & Ballet (ages 5-6)
8:00 pm—Jazz/Ballet/Lyrical II (age 7-9)

Saturdays

11:00 am—Capoeira Beginning Class
11:00 am—Kinderdance (ages 3-4)
12:00 pm—Jazz/Ballet/Lyrical III (teen)
1:00 pm —Women's Grief Workshop
4:00 pm – Children's Steel Drum

Sundays

4:00 pm—Children's Steel Drum
7:00 pm – DC Slam Poetry

energy. Cost: \$15

Beginning September 9: Children's Dance Classes

Star Makers Academy of Dance begins its Fall season of Jazz, Tap, Ballet and Hip Hop classes for kids ages 3 to teen. Classes are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays; see the Weekly Schedule for details. For registration information, call Stefanie Rene at (202) 746-9870 or email starmakersdance@yahoo.com.

Saturday September 9 @ 12pm: Pleasant Plains Civic Association Meeting

Due to the renovation of Banneker Recreation Center, the September Pleasant Plains Civic Association Meeting will take place at ECAC. Residents of Pleasant Plains are invited to discuss issues affecting your lives and meet other members of the community. Seniors can meet in the front of the building at 11:45 to get a ride around back where there are fewer steps.

ECAC Focus Groups

What do YOU want to see offered at ECAC? If you live, work or attend school in our target area (Between Florida Ave. and Spring Rd., Georgia Ave and 14th St.) you are invited to attend one of our focus groups to help us set up our 2007 programs:

Sunday September 10th from 3-4pm: All Ages

Saturday September 16th from 6-7pm: Teens ages 13-21

Thursday September 21st from 7-8pm: All Ages

Sunday September 24th from 3-4pm: Seniors 55 and over

Food will be served. If you can attend on one of the following dates, call Sylvia at (202) 462-2285 or email Sylvia@ecacollective.org.

Saturday September 16 from 12-4pm: Mixing Politics, Discussion and Hip Hop

Ever wonder why politics matters? Do you have concerns about issues affecting Washington, DC, the country and the world? Do you want to make a difference? If so, develop your personal political POWER by attending this dynamic, interactive, political education summit for high school and college students. Facilitated by Dr. Maya Rockeymoore, author of *The Political Action Handbook: A How-To Guide for the Hip-Hop Generation*. Live Music/Spoken Word/Food!! Cost: Free

Sunday September 17th @ 1:30: Introduction to Reiki

Learn about Reiki (pronounced "ray-kee") an ancient, dynamic, and powerful hands-on method of natural healing. It is an effective non-invasive, holistic component of an overall health maintenance regime. Reiki goes through clothing; the person receiving Reiki does not have to undress. Find out how easy Reiki is to learn in this two hour workshop presented by Catherine Locklair Barber, certified Reiki Master and Practitioner in preparation for a full day Reiki 1st degree workshop. Cost: Donation

What is ECAC?

ECAC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower the human spirit by integrating traditional arts, education and social activities in a community space.

How do I get there?

733 Euclid St. NW is on Euclid between Georgia and Sherman Ave, half block from Howard University and across from Banneker HS. It is less than a mile from the U St. and Howard Metro stops and is accessible from the 70, 68 and 66 bus lines.

Parking is available in the rear of the building. Second floor activities are not yet wheelchair accessible; please call beforehand if you require an accessible entrance

What are Service Coupons?

Volunteer work at ECAC is rewarded with Service Coupons (one coupon per hour) which can in turn be exchanged for classes or events as designated. Volunteer days are generally on Saturdays from 10-3, but you can call anytime and arrange to come in.



Amanda Stephenson (standing) with students of UNIFI

terior and interior walls, and made a great transformation of Studio 2. UNIFI's founder, Ms. Amanda Stephenson is actively working to fund an after school program in September.

We also had a regular showing of "**For the People**" Monday, the youth open mike circle led by Christylez Bacon of the hip hop group Triflava. Always an amazing display of talent, some of the highlights this summer were "The Night the Lights Went Out" and "Myke P Meets the Digeridoo". The circle will continue throughout the year and all young people are welcome to participate.

Trini-Pan America was a feature at ECAC this Summer with steel pans classes for kids and adults on Saturdays and Sundays. It started off small but we now have about 8 kids who are quickly building their repertoire.

The Star Makers Academy of Dance took a break from their regular program for the Summer but the Competition Kids kept working and have a trunk full of trophies to show for it. Congratulations to director Stefanie Rene and the competition team for setting a standard of excellence.

Not to be outdone, the **DC/Baltimore Slam Team** ranked 4th out of 73 teams at the 2006 National Poetry Slam in Austin, TX on August 12th. Delrica Andrews hosts the poetry slam every Sunday at ECAC and has put together a

winning team. Congratulations to Slam Team members Chris August, Joanna Hoffman, Twain Dooley, Gayle Danley and Rhonda Taylor.

With the Banneker Recreation Center out of commission for renovations, ECAC was pleased to host the April and June meetings of the **Pleasant Plains Civic Association**. The Association meets on the second Saturday of the month from 12-2pm, but does not usually meet in July or August. The highlights of the June meeting were:

- A report by Capt. Scott of crime in the area
- An appeal by Chad Williams for your support in his bid for Ward 1 Councilmember and
- A proposal by the Cesar Chavez Public Charter School to acquire the old Bruce School at Sherman and Kenyon for a middle school

The meeting is open to all residents of Pleasant Plains and is run by Darren Jones, President.

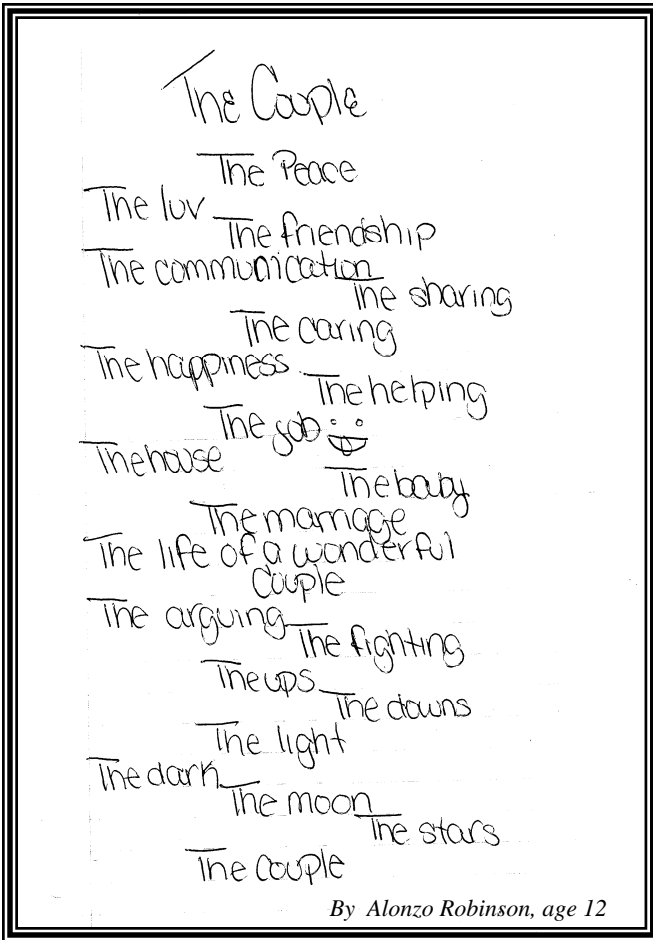
The next meeting will be Saturday September 9 at 12pm ECAC.

Of course we were not without issues this summer as senseless vandalism by kids resulted in a broken window and damage to the deck stairs. The incident only served to let us know that there is a lot of work to be done to engage idle young minds in the community.

Finally I would like to sincerely thank our volunteers this summer: Sherain Borntru, John Headley, Isa Angulo, Eden, UNIFI, Greater DC Cares; and our donors: The Cafritz Foundation, the Philip Graham Fund and the Pleasant Plains Civic Association.



Val of Trini-Pan America works with the youth



What would YOU like to see happen at ECAC?

If you reside or work in our target area of Pleasant Plains, we want you to be a part of a focus group to be held during September. We are scheduling four groups to be held at ECAC:

Sunday September 10th from 3-4pm: All Ages
Saturday September 16th from 6-7pm: Ages 13-21
Thursday September 21st from 7-8pm: All Ages
Sunday September 24th from 3-4pm: Seniors 55+

Each group will include food, networking and a door-prize. We will use the information to help us develop our 2007 programs in which we hope to include a cultural arts summer program, after school program, senior activities program, intergenerational arts program and teen drop in arts program. Your feedback will be an important part of our planning as we strive to make ECAC a part of the community.

To register call (202) 462-2285 or email sylvia@ecacollective.org



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