

the **Stand** south side news

www.mysouthsidestand.com

Syracuse, NY

September 2011 issue 12 FREE

ANNUAL PHOTO WALK

Participants click away to capture people and places on ordinary day

Preaching with a purpose

Pastor Frankie Jackson devotes his life to the work of the king

higher calling

100 Black Men helps high school youth get accepted to college

Believe in Me

Singer Khym releases her new album at Palace Theatre, close to her roots

FRIENDLY FIVE: THE SAXSMAN



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SOUTH SIDE COMMUNICATION CENTER
2331 SOUTH SALINA STREET
SYRACUSE NY 13205**SCHOOL AND YOUTH** | Expeditionary Learning Middle School student Paris Conerly took home several awards in a writing contest, including International poetry winner.**CHURCH** | For the past decade, Pastor Frankie Jackson has guided Syracuse Salt of the Earth Ministries to a new home.**FEATURES** | Photographers take to the streets to capture the sights of the South Side on one of the hottest days this summer during The Stand's annual Photo Walk.**COMMUNITY** | A community art project adds a splash of color to South Salina Street and five other Syracuse neighborhoods.**ENTERTAINMENT** | Find out more about the local musician many know only as "The Saxman," in a column called "A Friendly Five."**ENTERTAINMENT** | R&B artist Khym's sultry soprano voice dominated Syracuse July 30 during her album release concert at the Palace Theatre.**EDUCATION** | Longtime South Side resident Cynthia Wright pursues a college degree despite the odds.**COMMUNITY** | A male high schooler finds support and encouragement to attend college thanks to the local chapter of 100 Black Men.

■ Cover photography from South Side Photo Walk by Lekita Scott Dawkins

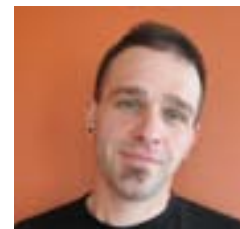
CALENDAR | SEPTEMBER

What: Beyond the Dream Gala**When:** 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17**Where:** Oncenter Convention Center Complex, 800 S. State St., Syracuse**More details:** The fundraiser will honor leaders in medicine, education, sports, corporate diversity, philanthropy and community service and award merit scholarships to college-bound students. Event will benefit the Mary Nelson Center's youth programs.**More Info.:** Tickets are \$100; for tickets contact Dannielle Kinney, the event coordinator, or Mary Nelson at (315) 491-7015 or dannielle-mnelsonyouthcenter2011@hotmail.com**What:** Syracuse Community Choir Open Call for Singers**When:** 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21**Where:** Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave.**More details:** Interested singers are invited to an orientation and open rehearsal. Current rehearsals are preparation for a performance Oct. 20 at St. Paul's Cathedral. Rehearsals will also include preparation for the Annual Winter Solstice Concert Dec. 10. Childcare is provided on premises and transportation to the rehearsal venue is available upon request.**More Info.:** Contact SCC Choral Director Karen Mihalyi at (315) 428-8151 or kmihalyi@a-znet.com**DISCLAIMER**

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE STAND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE ENTIRE STAFF. THE STAND WELCOMES SUBMISSIONS FROM ALL MEMBERS OF SYRACUSE'S SOUTH SIDE BUT RETAINS THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH ONLY MATERIAL THE STAND DEEMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PUBLICATION'S EDITORIAL PURPOSE AND IN KEEPING WITH COMMUNITY STANDARDS.

MEET A COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Longtime resident of the area, Jeremiah Howell, is currently working as an environmental scientist in Syracuse. He is a graduate of S.U.N.Y. College of Environmental Science & Forestry in Syracuse with a degree in Environmental Policy & Management. An avid photographer, Jeremiah hopes to expand his ability behind the lens and contribute to community awareness through involvement with The Stand. Read a profile written by Jeremiah on page 13.



The goal of The Stand remains to get even more South Side students involved, feature more stories written by community members and gain support from more local advertisers. These are our best ways to sustain the paper for years to come.

Our community correspondents have contributed much to the project this summer. Each one ventured out June 18 for Syracuse’s annual Juneteenth Celebration with a different focus and returned with photos and notes to craft their individual stories. We featured eight stories written by local residents using their new journalism skills. Visit www.mysouthsidestand.com and click on the Juneteenth headline to find links to their stories and photos. Also this summer, The Stand held its second annual Photo Walk. You can see some of the best shots from the day on pages 8 and 9 in this issue and view even more photos online.

This summer I also spent time attending several area meetings or chatting with members of the community to stay up to date on what residents feel is important. These included regular meetings by Tomorrow’s Neighborhoods Today and the mayor’s summer meeting series. I also spoke with parents who attended a session with Sharon Contreras, the new superintendent of the Syracuse City School District. She will chat with parents at these backyard events throughout the school year.

Syracuse Common Council President Van Robinson attended a recent backyard chat on the South Side on Aug. 8. “When you do it in a neighborhood setting, parents have a tendency to be a little more active and vocal,” Robinson said.

Organized by Bernard McMillian, a parent of six, the Aug. 8 gathering brought together nearly 20 parents. Contreras and her staff worked with parent leaders from every school to schedule informal events at parents’ homes. “I believe it is vitally important to make connections with parents and that parents are our clients,” she said.

Karinda Shanes is a parent of three, and one of her children attended city schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. “She puts herself out there, and that’s what makes us feel so confident that she’s going to come here and do something that she feels is important for the kids and the community,” Shanes said of Contreras.

To share your concerns, you must take a stand and get involved. Here at The Stand, you can always write a letter to the editor, attend future workshops, submit story ideas or encourage youth to join the staff. Let us hear from you.

Ashley Kang



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 10
Sept. 17

CREEK CLEANUP
8:30 a.m. to noon both days

The Creek Rats will continue the in-creek cleanup, as well as cleanup of the shore. This year’s slogan is: “10 years in — 2 miles to go.”

MORE INFO
The group asks community members to volunteer one or both Saturdays or to provide donations to continue the cleanups and help finance future events.

CONTACT
Bob Graham at (315) 396-2944 or bobgraham04@msn.com or Steve Seley at (315) 345-2727 or selent@msn.com

Superintendent’s Three Key Levers for Improving the School System:

- 1. **Effective Teachers** – By creating an evaluation tool that will allow the district to better support teachers and administrators and through offering more professional development.
- 2. **Rigorous Curriculum** – By preparing students for the workforce and/or college.
- 3. **Infrastructure of Support** – By listening to parents and offering greater support, such as tutoring, and also by incorporating ideas and concerns from parents into decision making.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor can be mailed to:

The Stand c/o Ashley Kang
South Side Communication Center
2331 South Salina St.
Syracuse, NY 13205

or emailed to:

The Stand’s director, Ashley Kang, at Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com

All letters must be no more than 200 words in length and must contain the writer’s full name, address and contact information.

BACKYARD CHATS

> Syracuse City School District Superintendent Sharon Contreras stands with Bernard McMillian, a parent of six, after a backyard chat Aug. 8 that he organized. Contact Contreras’ office at (315) 435-4164 or scontreras@scsd.us to learn more about future backyard chats.
| Ashley Kang, Staff Photo





EVOLUTION OF AWARD PLACEMENT

POEM:
"Teenagers"

Category No. 3
1st Place Local

Central District
1st Place

NY STATE
1st Place

NATIONAL
1st Place

INTERNATIONAL
1st Place

TOP POETRY PRIZE

Paris Conerly is recognized internationally for her poetry

By | Ashley Kang
The Stand Director

Members of the Syracuse Federation of Women's Clubs invited Syracuse City School District students in first through 12th grades last January to enter the national club's youth poetry and short story contest. Club President Candace B. Edwards never thought so many students would place or that one student would earn top prize. But in the club's first attempt to gather submissions for the contest, that's just what happened.

During the club's national conference held in June, Edwards learned that a poem written by eighth-grader Paris Conerly from the Expeditionary Learning Middle School placed first internationally.

"When I was called up on stage I had no idea," Edwards recalled. "I was so excited for Paris."

The poems were judged

for form, word usage, poetic techniques, rhythm and language, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Edwards, along with Ethel S. Robinson, the Syracuse Federation of Women's Clubs creative writing chair, presented Conerly and three other students at the middle school with their award certificates June 22 during the school's end-of-year awards ceremony.

Conerly, who will start Corcoran High School this year, stood up to read her winning poem in front of her classmates, teachers and parents. She and two other students also received the President's Award for Educational Excellence.

"This award is for those students with consistent academic achievement," Principal Kevin Burns explained. "That means for eight marking periods they earned above a 90 average."

Visit mysouthsidestand.com for a full list of winners.



> From left, Kevin Burns, principal of Syracuse's Expeditionary Learning Middle School; Ethel Robinson, Syracuse Federation of Women's Clubs creative writing chair; Candace Edwards, president of the Syracuse Federation of Women's Clubs; first-place poetry winner Paris Conerly; Casey LaBrake, Conerly's teacher. Conerly is holding her certificate. | Ashley Kang, Staff Photo

TEENAGERS

*Teenagers are vulnerable
I wish the world could see,*

*Just how we are
And how impressionable we can be.*

*I wish adults could take back
All the negative things they've said,
See how much we hurt
And be positive instead.*

*Look upon our fragile hearts
And the changes we make,
All the people who lie to us
All the risks we take.*

*Notice we change
Each and every day,
Wanting to leave home
Yet, desperately wanting to stay!*

*I wish they could remember
How tough these years can be,
The pressure to fit in
And the awful things we see.*

*Our young minds are being molded
And the scars we bare run deep,
Don't say we're "not going to be anything"
Instead encourage us to leap.*

*Reach out to give a helping hand
When we can't take one more step,
Let us know our dreams are in reach
And always should be kept.*

— Paris Conerly

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To building an educated workforce, so local companies can grow and prosper.

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Syracuse is taking the lead in urban education. It's the first community in the United States committed to making sure all public school students can afford and succeed in college. Through the Say Yes to Education program, Syracuse University is joining with the Syracuse City School District and others to make college dreams real.

To find out what Say Yes to Education means for you and your family, go to sayyessyracuse.org, or call **315-443-4260**.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY: Scholarship in Action



GOD'S MESSAGE

Pastor Frankie Jackson has authored the following books:

"The Nature of God: A Kingdom's Perspective"

"What is Your Name? Discovering Your Heavenly Name"

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Service Schedule:

Sunday Service
11 a.m.

Bi-monthly Prayer
6:30 p.m.

First and Second Mondays
of the month

Location:

320 W. Onondaga St.

Phone:

(315) 423-3829

On the Web:

<http://ssemf.org>

PERMANENT PLANS

Syracuse Salt of the Earth Ministries raising money for its own place

By | Ashley Kang
The Stand Director

'We don't want to just be another program, but an effective program,' pastor says

With one decade under his belt, Pastor Frankie Jackson and his congregation celebrated their first 10 years this summer with loud rejoicing ... much in the same manner as how several describe the ministry's beginning.

From a single rented room to various temporary locations along the way, Syracuse Salt of the Earth Ministries has found a home at 320 W. Onondaga St. since the end of December 2009. To ensure the site remains as the church's permanent location, Pastor Jackson and the congregation continue efforts to raise more than \$100,000 to own the building.

The summer celebration was one recent effort, with all donations added to the building fund. During the anniversary service when Frankie's brother, Deacon Alexander Jackson, stood up to speak, he highlighted SSEM's humble beginnings. With only a handful to help out, each played many roles in growing the congregation. His extra role: shuttle guy.

"I would shuttle them back and forth, back and forth," he said of the members. "Anyone I would see, I'd pick up and bring."

SSEM first shared space with the First Presbyterian Church near South Avenue and held its weekly Sunday service in a small upstairs room above the Presbyterian congregation. As time went on and the congregation grew, so did the praise volume.

"Our service started at 11 a.m. just as theirs was ending," Pastor Jackson explained. "And at first we received compliments, like 'You guys sound like you're having a great time.' But about a month later, we received a notice to find a new location."

The growing congregation and rambunctious praise was determined as the likely culprit.

"But when you're praising God, that's not noise, that's joy," Alexander Jackson said.

Added Pastor Jackson: "And who am I to try and squash my congregation's praise."

The same enthusiasm was felt during the June 25 special service when SSEM celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

"I feel God in this room," exclaimed guest speaker Pastor Willie J. Graham from Bethlehem Revival Temple. A well-known Syracuse pastor, Graham spoke during the celebration and recalled when the Jacksons first started, noting, "They used to talk to me all the time."



> Pastor Frankie Jackson met his wife, Sheba, on a college trip to West Ghana, his roommate's homeland. Here, they thank everyone for coming out this summer to the 10-year celebration of their church. | Ashley Kang, Staff Photo

"When the phone rang, if we had caller I.D. then, I'd probably wouldn't (have) answered. But when you're new, you need advice," he recalled fondly. "I was happy to give it, because when I started, I needed help too."

Graham was one of the first to provide Jackson with guidance, helping to explain how to get incorporated and the ins and outs of running a church.

"He gave us the tools we needed to get established and was always there with advice," Pastor Jackson said.

FOCUS ON FUNDRAISING

Since that first location, the church has moved five times, landing where it now resides on the edge of the west corner of the South Side. The current focus is to raise money so the church can finally own its own structure. This adds fundraiser to the long list of multiple roles Pastor Jackson, 43, holds. During one 11

a.m. Sunday service, his many roles materialize: teacher, preacher, praiser of God, promoter and even drummer.

While Minister Tina Taylor preaches the day's greeting, Pastor Jackson splits his time between swaying and clapping to the music from the first row to jumping behind a Congo drum to add to the growing volume of music backing Taylor's welcome.

Speaking with emphasis when needed, Pastor Jackson delivers a sermon on creating a culture of healing over a culture of pain to more than 50 frequent members and a handful of new visitors. "God brought you



> Pastor Frankie Jackson prepares to read from Scripture at a Sunday service in July. | Jeremiah Howell, Photo

here today," he reminds everyone.

Jackson's focus and success is always to offer help to those in his congregation and guidance to new members. On this day, he says, "If God is going to be allowed to effect healing, he's got to be allowed to perform surgery on your life."

RECEIVING A CALLING

Pastor Jackson says his passionate heart comes from his mother, allowing his calling from God to preach to come that much easier. He spent 13 years working at churches as a licensed minister working with youth, but God kept calling him to start his own.

"I just kept rejecting it, but I kept being told that I should do more," he said.

With his wife's encouragement and the grace of

God, Pastor Jackson moved out of his comfort zone to begin his own church. To start, he developed a purpose.

"You've gotta have a reason why, because God doesn't do anything without a reason," he said.

His stated purpose: to guide, train and disciple for the work of the king.

"Our vision has expanded since those early days, but the core is still the same," he added.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Pastor Jackson was born in Chicago, moved to Central New York at the age of 4 and grew up most of his life on Syracuse's South Side.

He remembers the neighborhood even before the Southwest Community Center was built, recalling fondly sneaking into the center's construction site to catch frogs. As he grew older, he developed his leadership skills and passion to work with youth. At 14, he took a job at the center as a mentor to younger boys.

He is one of 10 brothers and sisters and attended church with his mother each Sunday. During one winter break while in college, he joined his roommate on a trip to his roommate's homeland in West Ghana. While at a church service there, he met his future wife, Sheba Rockson. He returned the following year and the two married; now the pair oversees the SSEM and has four children.

Pastor Jackson believes his mandate is to help others rediscover, restore and reconcile their relationship with God the Father through the power of preaching and teaching.

NEXT 10 YEARS

Plans to continue to fundraise will also help to renovate the building to add a room for youth, add a basketball hoop outside and upgrade the basement with a banquet area for weddings and celebrations. The area would include a kitchen and space for teens to meet.

The main future ambition of SSEM is "to build bridges," says Pastor Jackson.

To do this, he wants the church to continue to expand its programs to reach those in need to help them become self-sufficient and for his church's programs to be a model for other churches.

"We don't want to just be another program, but an effective program," he said.

Several in the church each run specific outreach programs to help women in need or those in recovery. Pastor Jackson's main outreach effort is working with men at the Rescue Mission.

Another ambition is for his church to become global by doing mission work and reaching a point where members of his congregation can respond to disasters.

"I'm trying to build a place where the whole family can enjoy," he said. "I'm just trying to build a better community."

ABOUT THE MINISTRIES

OUR MISSION

Launched in 2006 as an outreach to help the poor, hungry and homeless. Food and clothing is given away to those who are in need.

RECOVERY IN THE WORD

A 12-step rehabilitation program that addresses the natural addiction as well as spiritual challenges that an individual faces. Intended for those who struggle with substance abuse, emotional abuse and physical abuse.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

A community service program designed for troubled youth. The program consists of dialoging, discussion and teaching responsibility among other topics that address difficult issues such as education, crime, health, employment and positive role models.

FREEDOM MINISTRY

A ministry to prison inmates serving time and who need encouragement, support and a second chance in life. SSEM offers Bible study, visits, counseling and continual rehabilitation after release.

Source: Syracuse Salt of the Earth Ministries

South Side Photo Walk



| TRACEY GOTHAM

Photo enthusiasts were welcomed to Syracuse's South Side on Saturday, July 23 — one of the hottest days this summer — to take part in The Stand's second annual Photo Walk. Participants were especially welcomed into the Blue Brothers Barber Shop on South Salina Street, where the clicks of multiple shutters were inaudible over clippers, chatter and hearty laughs.

A Photo Walk is a social photography event where photographers get together to explore a neighborhood, shoot photos and practice their skills. The Stand's event invited photographers — at any and all levels — to participate and capture the scenes from the South Side to share with the community.

Seven participants ventured out in the 93-degree heat to walk down South Salina Street, through neighborhoods to Kirk Park and back.

Following the walk, photographers shared their photos with the group, and some of the day's best shots are published here for the community to enjoy.



| BRIAN BRISTER



| EVA McKEND

Even more photos are shared online at www.mysouthsidestand.com in slideshows.





| BRIAN BRISTER



| LEKITA SCOTT DAWKINS



| MIGUEL BALBUENA



| JEANANN WIENERS



| EVA MCKEND



| BRIAN BRISTER



| STEVE DAVIS

“I consider The Stand newspaper as the voice and conscience of the Syracuse South Side.”

— *Paschal Ugoji, Beauchamp Branch Librarian and The Stand Reader*

How to purchase an ad

If interested in running an ad, contact **Ashley Kang** to request a rate card and discuss options by emailing Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or by calling (315) 882-1054. The Stand's rate card can also be found online.

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ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Community-based art project brings six sculptures to city neighborhoods

Community-Based Public Art Project was an effort to add artwork to local neighborhoods. With \$25,000 from the city budget, the Syracuse Public Art Commission along with Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today, made the installation of the six pieces of art a reality. In the South Side, a piece, "Community As Family," by Fayetteville sculptor Peter Michel can be seen brightening up the entrance to Beauchamp Branch Library. Other works include:

- "Honoring the Onondaga Creek" by Peter Michel
Meacham Field at W. Seneca Turnpike and Onondaga Creek
- "01101" by Tash Taskale
Lemp Park, East Fayette and Warren streets
- "Westside Geomatic" by James Smith
Hazard Branch Library, 1620 W. Genesee St.
- "Cycle" by Jason Roth
Henninger High School, 600 Robinson St.
- "Rising" by Dennis Earle
Finnegan Park, Lodi Street and Hawley Avenue



> Peter Michel stands with his creation, "Community As Family," installed Aug. 1, at the Beauchamp Branch Library, South Salina and East Colvin streets. | Ashley Kang, Staff Photo

UPCOMING EVENT

What: A-OK! Acts of Kindness Weekend

When: Sept. 9, 10 & 11

Where: Throughout Syracuse with many volunteer events in Syracuse's South Side

More details: In honor of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Women Transcending Boundaries will continue Acts of Kindness Weekend — a series of events meant to build community in Syracuse. In the South Side, residents can volunteer for cleanups in Kirk Park and along Onondaga Creek and help create a healthy snack garden at the Rahma Clinic.

More Info.: To see additional volunteer opportunities, visit <http://a-okweekend.wikispaces.com/home>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Breast Exams, Mammograms, Pap Tests and Colorectal Cancer Screenings

The Onondaga County Cancer Services Program Partnership (CSP) offers free breast and cervical screening for women 40 years and older who do not have health insurance. The CSP also offers free colorectal screening for men and women 50 years and older who do not have health insurance. These services are available at private health care provider offices and at CSP program sites throughout the city of Syracuse and Onondaga County. Call (315) 435-3653 to make an appointment.

PeaceSongs CNY: Turning Up the Volume on Peace

The Syracuse Peace Council is holding a music contest, PeaceSongs CNY, open to Central New Yorkers. Local musicians are asked to submit one song of any genre relating to peace and social justice. The winning selections will be included in a CD honoring the Syracuse Peace Council's 75th anniversary. Entries can be submitted electronically to peacesongscny@gmail.com or mailed on a CD to Syracuse Peace Council, 2013 E. Genesee St., Syracuse NY 13210 by Oct. 1, 2011. All submissions will be posted online. The CD will be released in the winter of 2012 with an event featuring the selected musicians. For more, visit www.peacecouncil.net/songs or call Amber MacDuffie at (315) 200-5266 or Jack Brown at (732) 266-9016.

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LISTEN ONLINE



To hear the song "Land of Kemet"

from The Saxman's CD, "Ministry of Music," visit mysouthsidesideand.com

BOOK THE SAXMAN

Contact Charles Robinson at (315) 383-7942 or (315) 751-8401 to book him for an event.

THE SAXMAN

Local street performer will always oblige a song request

By | Reggie Seigler
A Friendly Five' columnist

As the Saxman and I stood in front of the Suds Factory on Clinton Street in Armory Square, we could see an apparatus for a festival being erected up the street in Clinton Square. The Saxman, 51, moved to Syracuse from Trenton, N.J., about 20 years ago. He has seen many of these types of festivals come and go over the years.

On many days long into the evening hours he can be found somewhere in the vicinity of a crowd but never really part of it. If you've frequented Armory Square, Marshall Street, Price Chopper at Western Lights or the Inner Harbor, chances are you've seen him. He's usually backed up against an old stone wall or a pole playing for tips and selling his CD "Ministry of Music."

The Saxman engages many people on a daily basis but most of them refer to him only by his metonym, "The Saxman." He also plays regularly at the Living Savior Church, located on West Newell Street.

The Saxman is a very approachable guy. He is always eager to oblige a song request, share a poem or engage in a short conversation.

The Saxman has been playing off and on for nearly 30 years but has not always made his living as a busker. He's had a few careers in his lifetime, including being a New Jersey State Corrections Officer. He has also been a tractor trailer driver and a construction worker.

Currently, he is dealing with glaucoma. It has caused him to completely lose sight in one of his eyes, and the other one is beginning to slowly dim. These circumstances prohibit him from fully performing the duties of those other vocations. Although he is slowly losing his sight, he still maintains his insight.

I asked him to comment on how being a street musician fits into the local music scene, and he shared the following: "Outside of dealing with the elements, it's cool. Being a 'street player' gives me the oppor-

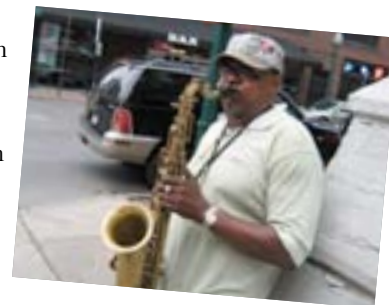
tunity to express myself freely. I can play what I want to play without having to conform to any specific structure, and if I make a mistake, I can turn that mistake into something positive."

As for fitting into the local music scene, he shared with me his feelings of being overlooked when it comes to bookings. He believes that due to the sheer number of events that are held annually in the city of Syracuse, such as the festivals and concert series, that he should have opportunities to perform at them. He's spent many hours learning and perfecting all the anthems and other traditional repertoire of the craft. And working through the elements in Syracuse has to be a testament to his ability to be adaptable in all situations.

Through all this, however, the phone just doesn't seem to ring, so he creates opportunities for himself. The Saxman wants people to know his name is Charles Robinson. He is a musician, and he is available for parties, weddings and ceremonial and sporting events.

As The Saxman thanked me for this interview, I began to think about something: if people started to recognize him as Charles Robinson rather than as "The Saxman" those phone calls might start to happen. Then I sensed something else: being a street player is not just what he does because of the circumstances but rather what he is despite of the circumstances. He's The Saxman. The reason for the lack of phone calls is even deeper.

A Friendly Five is created and coordinated by Reggie Seigler to highlight the music and history of Syracuse's South Side music scene. If you are a local musician and have an idea for a future column, contact Reggie at reggie@softspokenband.com or call (315) 479-9620



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- A basic budget plan
- Assist with collection and judgement items & next steps
- Assist with collection of bankruptcy document

CHEMICAL REACTION

Local musician lights up Palace Theatre's stage for her album release

By | Jeremiah Howell
Community correspondent

A dash of the light of divine inspiration. A heady dose of perseverance. The bubbly mixture boils, the heat of this reaction nearly melting the paint from the walls. The house lights of the Palace Theatre drop down, leaving only a focused beam of light, completing the reaction and illuminating Khym as she enters.



> Khym | Jeremiah Howell

Khym, a rising R&B talent, was in the Palace Theatre on the evening of July 30 to perform in support of her newly released CD "Believe in Me" presented by Palm Tree Records.

Already a well-seasoned veteran of sound and stage, Khym began her musical journey at a young age. She began as a participant in a church choir and progressed

to writing and recording her own songs at 11.

"Growing up in my household, I was always exposed to music. My parents are musical people," Khym said about the driving force behind her music. "It takes a lot of self discipline," she added, reflecting on the sacrifices she has made in her blossoming R&B career.

Her latest venture, the "Believe in Me" album, is a strong effort consisting of 10 well-crafted tracks. The album features the single "Chemistry of Love."

Khym said the single is representative of the complexities of love.

"Love is so many pieces. So many elements complete the word love," she said, expanding on the personal meaning of this song in her own life.

Showing the poise of an ancient queen, Khym strode through the Palace Theatre, taking her place center stage, commanding the full attention of the crowd. The strength of her voice, in combination with her band and vocalists, broke forth from the stage. And in the changing light of the Palace Theatre, the chemical reaction is complete, yielding the joy of a young performer learning what the combination of well-chosen elements can produce.

KHYM FACTS

Full Name:

Khym Glasgow

Originated from:

Barbados West Indies

Graduated from:

Corcoran High School

Video:

Watch "Where You Are" with scenes from Syracuse on YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODzWkyxKGbo>

Newest Single:

"Chemistry of Love" is available now at CDBaby.com, iTunes & Amazon

More Online:

feentertainment.com



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- ❖ **The program includes up to two years education and training, campus housing, meals and other services. Both high school graduates and non-graduates are encouraged to apply. If needed, a student can also get a GED or high school diploma - at the same time they train for a career at Job Corps.**
- ❖ **Orientations are held on Thursdays at 2:45pm at Job Corps' Outreach and Admissions Office, 224 Harrison St., Suite 212, in downtown Syracuse. Please call (315) 478-5529 to see if you are eligible for the program. We look forward to seeing you soon!**

WWW.JOBCORPS.GOV

WHO CAN GET HELP?

HEOP support is for:

- People of all ages who, because of educational or economic circumstances, have been deprived of adequate preparation for college.
- Central New York residents who wish to attend college part-time.
- Adults with potential for academic success who need some initial upgrading of skills, as well as encouragement and financial support.

Applicants must:

- Be a New York state resident for one year.
- Be either a first-time college student or transfer from an EOP, HEOP or SEEK program.

First-time college students must be in ONE of these categories:

- Graduated from high school with a total four-year average below 84.5.
- Graduated with a vocational diploma.
- Have a High School Equivalency Diploma.

Source:

<http://uc.syr.edu/Students/Prospective/heop/index.html>

LEARNING TO SURVIVE

Higher Education Opportunity Program at SU provides much-needed help

By | Dan Scorpio
Urban Affairs reporter

Part-time student has classes two days a week but goes to campus every day to keep up

Against heavy odds, Cynthia Wright hopes to finally earn a college degree.

Wright, a longtime South Side resident, has suffered in the past decade the loss of both parents, a frightening bout with cancer and the heartache of seeing a neighborhood she loves deteriorate around her.

She decided last year she would finally pursue a formal education.

"Cynthia, like many of our students, has more to overcome than the average college student," said Bill Eppel, coordinator of the Higher Education Opportunity Program at Syracuse University's University College. "She is dedicated to getting to campus, working hard at home and fighting every step of the way."

The Higher Education Opportunity Program at SU helps prospective students attend SU on a part-time basis when their financial and educational backgrounds would otherwise rule them out.

Wright, unmarried and without children, attends classes at University College two days a week, but said she goes to campus every day to study and keep up with her classmates. She is working toward her bachelor's degree in Women's and Gender Studies, with the goal of eventually achieving her doctoral degree.

"It is important to have good grades," Wright said in an interview last spring. "But you have to have that extra drive. You have to really want to succeed or else you won't achieve your goals."

Wright first attended classes at UC in 2010, shortly after her parents died. She had spent the years before caring for them at home, just another personal challenge she faced. In 2000, Wright said, she underwent surgery for breast cancer. Eleven years later she is cancer-free.

"Learning keeps me from remembering what I went through," Wright said. "This is my survival."

Robin Riley, assistant professor of women's studies at SU, taught Wright in the spring 2011 semester and said Wright was especially dedicated to her class. Riley's course, "Transnational Feminism," was an examination of women and family relationships worldwide.

"Cynthia had so much to contribute about being an African-American woman and about not being particularly affluent," Riley said. "She brought in such a valuable perspective for all my other students, who were mostly traditional undergraduates."



> Cynthia Wright loves to learn. | Dan Scorpio, Staff Photo

Riley remembered Wright's presence at an informal gathering of students, a meeting designed to help them get to know one another and ease the pressure of classes. Riley said she mentioned "Sylvester," a soul singer popular in the early 1980s, to her students and Wright's eyes brightened immediately. She repeated lyrics and shared memories of the artist. "I love her liveliness," Riley said.

Wright credits that to her upbringing on the South Side. She has lived in the same house on Fernwood Avenue, off of Midland Avenue, since her parents bought it in 1964.

The South Side neighborhood used to house upper-class and middle-class residents across all races, Wright said, but now she sees a "different" neighborhood. "Now there's fussing, cussing, drinking and fighting all over and everyone's afraid to go outside," she said.

The neighborhood's deterioration led Wright to do volunteer work with Syracuse United Neighbors, she said. SUN is a grassroots activist organization that has taken a significant interest in the South Side and its residents. Phil Prehn, a community organizer for SUN, has worked alongside Wright for about 18 years.

"Cynthia analyzes issues beautifully," Prehn said. "She's so grounded in her neighborhood. She works amazingly hard and always seems to come out on top."

Wright said she hopes to use her degree to work with the elderly, either in a nursing home or some kind of school — but that working again was the most important goal for her. A longtime recipient of Social Security disability aid, Wright said she remembered a lesson from her mother: "My momma always said there's nothing like having your own."

Wright does not consider herself a "role model," but hopes others can find inspiration from her story. "Nothing you really want in life is easy, but you have to want it."

CONNECTIONS COUNT

Mentoring programs collaborate to help young men get into college

By | Jason Krakower
Urban Affairs reporter

A participant in 100 Black Men for four years, Justin Williams is now headed for Le Moyne

Justin Williams knows the value of making a simple connection. As an incoming freshman at George W. Fowler High School, Williams was academically apathetic and uninvolved in his community.

One organization changed his perspective, and ultimately, his life.



> Justin Williams

Williams, who will attend Le Moyne College this fall to study physics, was introduced to Syracuse's chapter of the 100 Black Men and became a devoted participant for all four years of high school. The organization, which has 116 chapters, taught Williams about black history and cultural issues while also molding him into the young man he is today.

"I had one of my friends come with me to see what it was about, and the meetings had a lot of good discussions," Williams said, looking back. "It being my freshman year, I had no idea what I was going into."

The organization's Syracuse chapter has positively influenced students such as Williams even before it was officially awarded a charter into 100 Black Men of America in 2009, and members said it's because of its emphasis on morals and education. The founding principles involve establishing an environment where young men are motivated to succeed, according to its vision statement. The goal is important in an area where children need guidance and there is not much help available.

Jawwaad Rasheed, the chapter's vice president of programs, helps oversee the various mentoring activities. In addition to meetings at Fowler, which occur every Thursday from 3:20 to 5 p.m., organization members also hold group mentoring meetings at Blodgett Middle School, read to students at Percy Hughes Elementary School and participate in "Manhood Training" for African-American teenagers. The chapter's website indicates that Manhood Training is "a nontraditional and innovative approach designed to increase awareness and promote skills associated with a positive Black masculine identity."

Rasheed acknowledged the value of role models for Syracuse youth.

"The important goal there is to have black men

working with so many young black students that are in need of mentoring and guidance," Rasheed said. "It's a very, very strong mentoring program. That's the core of 100 Black Men."

Williams also had help from Junior Frontiers of the Mohawk Valley, which Rasheed co-directs with Rich Davis, U'nice Elliott and Barbara Scantlebury. Rasheed said it focuses primarily on academic excellence, then on professional development, civic service and self-esteem with the objective of helping young African-Americans become responsible adults.

Junior Frontiers, which began in Utica in 1996, is linked with 100 Black Men through Rasheed and also through the two groups' priorities and collaboration.

"One of 100 Black Men's goals and strengths is education, which has been an expertise of Junior Frontiers," Rasheed said, noting that only one participating student has not graduated high school in the past 10 years. "We have a good college program as part of our academic excellence program. 100 Black Men has taken advantage of that with their educational program."

The Junior Frontiers is also connected to 100 Black Men by partnering with the chapter to offer special programs to its students. The Junior Frontiers sponsors students on the Historical Black College Tour, the New York State Community College Tour, and the Ivy League Tour for those who qualify, Rasheed said.

Williams was a participant, and the Historical Black College Tour heavily influenced him, especially coming from a high school where 2009 figures showed only about a third of incoming students end up graduating.

"They sponsored me for college tours and they had all of the seniors apply to each college that we went to," Williams said. "Without 100 Black Men, I don't think that I would have been able to get into any of those colleges, but with their help I got into all of them." He had the option to attend schools such as Shaw University, North Carolina A&T State University and Winston-Salem State University, all located in North Carolina.

The Dunbar Association is similarly focused on educating and inspiring Syracuse children, said teen coordinator Ruthnie Angrand. "Jawwaad Rasheed does a lot of work with youth, so we've been trying to create a male mentoring program between us," Angrand said.

Eileen Arocho, the youth development specialist at Dunbar, agreed. "We want the children to see positive role models," she said.

Someday, Williams wants to be that role model. "In the future, I hope to join the 100 Black Men and mentor kids of whatever age."

ABOUT 100 BLACK MEN

MISSION

The mission of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc., is to improve the quality of life within our communities and enhance educational and economic opportunities for all African Americans.

VISION

100 Black Men of America, Inc., seeks to serve as a beacon of leadership by utilizing our diverse talents to create environments where our children are motivated to achieve, and to empower our people to become self-sufficient shareholders in the economic and social fabric of the communities we serve.

VALUES

100 Black Men of America, Inc., is committed to the intellectual development of youth and the economic empowerment of the African American community based on the following precepts: respect for family, spirituality, justice and integrity.

Source:
<http://100blackmen.org>



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