

TheBrotherhood



SisterSol

Established 1995

THE BROTHERHOOD/SISTER SOL

E-Update Newsletter

July 2011

Program Highlights- Summer Programming Is In Full Swing!

International Study Program (ISP): Ghana 2011

On July 3rd, ISP embarked on an amazing experience to live and study in Ghana. For a few members, this journey was their first time on a plane; for others, it was their first time leaving the tri-state area; and for all, this journey marked their first time visiting a country on the African continent. While in Ghana they will study at the University of Legon in Accra and live at the university; spend ten days in the rural Ewe village of Wusuta; visit Kumasi, the center of Asante culture and history; and travel to Cape Coast where they will spend time in the slave castles. During the group's month in Ghana they will meet representatives from the US Embassy, USAID, Peace Corps, and from local non governmental organizations that work on issues of HIV/AIDS and youth development. Our members will also take classes in the Ewe language, on Ghanaian politics, history and economics and also attend drumming and dance classes. The group will visit assorted historical and cultural sites and facilitate a screening of and discussion on the new documentary Freedom Riders which details an aspect of the American Civil Rights Movement.

Since January, the group has been meeting to learn about the rich history and culture of Ghana. They have studied Pan-Africanism and globalization, met Ghanaians living and working in New York City, visited the Global Africa Project and the Museum of Art and Design, studied the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and visited the African Burial Ground in New York City. They have completed individual and group projects connected to Ghanaian culture, economics, government, and the environment. Upon their return, the group will share presentations about their travel experiences with the community.



Read weekly blogs on ISP's travels throughout Ghana, visit our [Reality Check Online Newsletter](#)



Summer Day Camp

Our 5-week Summer Day Camp (SDC) began July 11 for 29 of our 7-12 year old members, most of whom attend our Elementary After School Program during the school year. SDC takes place Monday through Friday from 9:00am- 6:00pm. Each day, we provide a healthy breakfast, lunch and snack. This year's SDC will weave together art, culture, nature, science, and history to provide our members with a range of exciting activities and outings that will take them all over the New York City area. Our young members will spend the final week of SDC away from home in the wilderness at Yogi Bear Campground Resort in Woodridge, New York.

[Click here to learn about our Summer Day Camp](#)

Arts Institutes

This summer we are holding two Arts Institutes for 25 teen members. One Arts Institute will explore the performing arts and its connection to social justice while the second Arts Institute will explore the visual arts and graphic media. Both groups will go on outings, site visits, and participate in workshops related to the arts. These Institutes seek to develop our members' voices and talents through exposure to professional artists and hands on trainings.

Program Highlights- Summer Programming Is In Full Swing!

Youth Employment Opportunity (YEO)

Our Youth Employment Opportunity Program offers job training and experience for Bro/Sis members who are selected for YEO through an intensive screening and interview process. Members learn interview techniques, business etiquette, letter and resume writing skills, and computer and financial literacy. Summer jobs within Bro/Sis include Camp Counselor for our Summer Day Camp, Administrative Assistant to our Office Manager, and Garden Stewards and Landscape Designers through the Environmental Education Program in the Green Thumb community garden adjacent to our backyard.

We also provide internship and employment opportunities in areas that interest our members. Through these work opportunities, members are able to make professional connections to help them enter the workforce.

Through the Prove it to Gaia project in our Environmental Education Program, members learn how to landscape, plant vegetation and build outdoor structures. Over the years they have re-designed the garden, constructed raised planting beds, a gazebo, a greenhouse, two decks, a covered "living room" for community elders, a ground-level challenge course for team building activities, a pond, a vertical planting wall, and a compost area. YEO offers youth the important experience of early employment, a factor that significantly increases their ability to be gainfully employed into adulthood.

[Click here for more on our Youth Employment Opportunity Program](#)



Community Organizing: Summer Liberation School (SLS)

Each year, the Summer Liberation School serves as an intense 4-week training for the newest members of our Liberation Program (LP) and is meant to develop their awareness of social problems and how individuals and communities are affected by them. This summer SLS youth from a variety of high schools are participating in the training. Members analyze identity & oppression, study the history & legacy of political movements, dissect the media and images in pop culture through workshops and activities, and learn the basics of grassroots community organizing. SLS is facilitated by current and alumni Liberation Program members under the guidance of LP staff.



Once members satisfactorily complete SLS, they receive an honorarium and officially become part of the Liberation Collective, the leadership and organizing body of the Liberation Program. Throughout the school year, the Collective develops and organizes campaigns around important community issues. With guidance from staff, Collective members are responsible for recruiting and training future members.

[Click here to learn more about our Summer Liberation School](#)

Rites of Passage Wilderness Retreats

The Brotherhood - Members and alumni of the Brotherhood traveled to Camp Speers in Pennsylvania from June 10th to June 12th for their bi-annual wilderness retreat. This year's theme was **"To Whom Much Is Given, Much Is Expected,"** and members were encouraged to view their lives in terms of abundance, and then reflect on ways in which they could give back to their communities and peers.

Highlights of the retreat included a high ropes course that challenged members' fear and limits. Staff and members screened a documentary about the life of Roberto Clemente and were moved by the story of his struggle and sacrifice. One member learned how to ride a bike for the first time during the mountain biking activity. Older members stepped up within their roles as cabin leaders and modeled to the younger brothers the true meaning of their passage into alumni status. The reflections of the members showcased the importance of creating moments for members to bond as brothers. The quotation that served as the framing theme of the retreat was:

"The expectations of life depends upon diligence; the mechanic that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools" -Confucius

Click here to
learn about our
[Brotherhood
Retreat](#)



Sister Sol - On Saturday, June 18th, members, alumni, and staff traveled to Camp Louemma in New Jersey for our annual Sister Sol Spring Retreat. Despite the rainy weather, spirits were high as we explored this year's retreat theme: **"Trust Your Struggle."** This retreat was a momentous one for the young women of Soul and L.I.F.E, who presented their *Oaths of Dedication* to the entire Sister Sol collective. The chapter, who just graduated from high school and are entering college, reflected on their experiences at BHSS and committed themselves to their visions for the future.

Highlights of the retreat included boating on the lake, an alumni workshop focused on caring for your inner self, and a beading activity that encouraged members to create beaded crafts for a partner that represented a visual illustration of their support for the story shared. Alumni member, Jennifer Watkins, led a dance class where she introduced aspects of the



West African celebratory dance *lamba*, and shared with members her physical and spiritual connection to dance. The retreat was a wonderful opportunity for our female members to deepen friendships and create lifelong ties of sisterhood.

Click here for more on
our [Sister Sol Retreat](#)

Liberating Voices/Liberating Minds Institute

Bro/Sis is partnering with Open Society Institute (OSI) through their Campaign for Black Male Achievement to conduct a series of Liberating Voices/Liberating Minds Institutes ©. OSI provided funding for their grantees across the country to participate in the trainings free of charge. Each Institute was tailored to the needs and interests of the group, with some largely focusing on our Brotherhood Rites of Passage programming and others more broadly on our holistic youth development model. These trainings were co-facilitated by Khary Lazarre-White, BHSS Executive Director & Co-Founder, Dr. Susan Wilcox, Program & Professional Development, and other staff and alumni members.



June Trainings:

On June 2nd & 3rd, we held an LVLM training in New Orleans at the offices of Operation Reach, Inc. for representatives from Partnership for Youth Development, Feret Neighborhood Center, Urban League College Track, Mos Chukma Arts as Healing Institute, and Tulane University Center for Public Service

On June 15, 16 & 17th we held a mixed group LVLM training in New York City for representatives from local organizations including Soundview Academy for Culture & Scholarship, Harlem Children's Zone, Girls for Gender Equity, Bayview Association for Youth, San Francisco Achievers Cultural Rites of Passage Program, and The Cove-KGNA.

On June 23 & 24th, we held a training in Milwaukee at Washington High School for representatives from Urban Underground, Running Rebels Community Organization, and the Milwaukee Public School system.

[Click here to learn more about Urban Underground](#)

“Thank you again, from my heart, for an invigorating, warming, and thoroughly inspiring three days at Bro/Sis. It will shape up to be one of the most impactful experiences of my life, I’m quite sure. In particular, I learned a great deal from observing how you facilitate in ways that help people to think about how they are doing, acting, and thinking.” - LVLM Participant

[Click to learn more about our Liberating Voices/Liberating Minds Institute](#)

Events

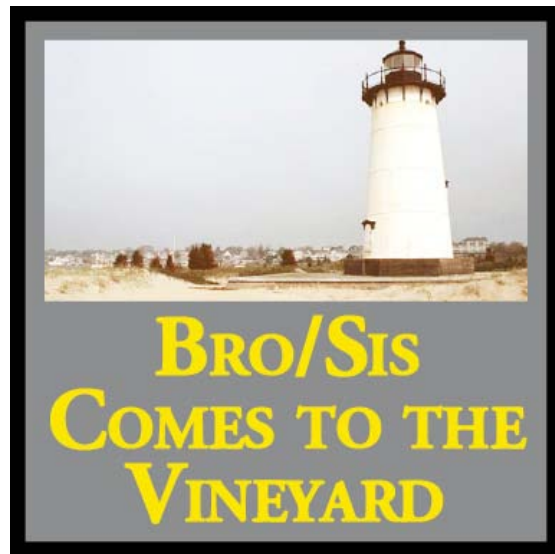
Bro/Sis come to the Vineyard

We are pleased to announce our second event at Martha's Vineyard...

Bro/Sis Comes to the Vineyard: A Benefit for The Brotherhood/Sister Sol.

The event will be held at the Farm Neck Golf Club, in Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard on Monday, August 15th from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Join us for a festive evening of cocktails, great food and a silent auction. Our sponsors for the evening are Gibson Dunn, Black Enterprise, and Dior and the event is endorsed by the Black Ivy Group.

This is our second annual event in Martha's Vineyard; the previous event was a tremendous success. Harvard Law School Professor, Lani Guinier was our guest speaker for the night and guests were treated to poetry performances by Zora Howard, Bro/Sis alumna member and first ever Youth Poet Laureate of New York City, and by Frank Lopez, Bro/Sis alumnus and award-winning poet & documentarian. The event was covered extensively in the Vineyard Gazette. **We expect this year's event to be even more successful!**



[Click here for tickets & information on Bro/Sis Comes to the Vineyard](#)

TheBrotherhood



SisterSol

Established 1995

More Info? Contact us at:
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