

Program Highlights

Sister Sol Homecoming

On Saturday, January 7th, members of Sister Sol met with invited guests to celebrate the 4th annual Homecoming, a convening of all of Sister Sol's chapters. This year's theme was *Build Your Wings* and guests from a variety of professions shared the stories behind their success, including all the pitfalls, and mistakes that occurred along the way. Guests included Bro/Sis Board Member, professor and author Dr. Farah Griffin as well as Danielle Alex, Zetta Elliott, Loira Limbal, Benita Miller, Esq., Lori Parquet and Dr. Manel Silva.

Throughout the day, guests talked about the career paths they took. They shared the challenges they faced and ways they were able to overcome obstacles. Each woman left our members with a piece of advice that spoke to the lessons they learned from their experiences. Members are looking forward to the internship opportunities and mentoring relationships that were created at this event.

[Click here to read about the Sister Sol Homecoming](#)



Brotherhood Day of Service

Brotherhood chapter members and leaders from United Warriors, Strive 2 Thrive and Legacy participated in a day of service on Monday, January 16th to honor the work and sacrifices of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In the morning, members took part in a hour long workshop facilitated by Chapter Leaders that examined Dr. King's words and mission through a close reading of his speeches. During the afternoon session, members broke out into their respective chapter assignments. Legacy continued to work on their *Oaths of Dedication* while United Warriors and Strive 2 Thrive chapters visited Part of the Solution (POTS), a community organization in the Bronx. At POTS, the members volunteered in the soup kitchen, serving food and washing dishes. They later regrouped at the brownstone to write a reflection about their day with a specific focus on the connection between manhood and service to others. They

shared their experiences and reflections with each other during a closing circle.

[Click here to read Reality Check Online](#)

Amar'e Stoudemire Gives Back to Bro/Sis Members!

New York Knicks player Amar'e Stoudemire and his family joined our annual Winter Solstice celebration on December 22nd. He spent time visiting with our youth members and spoke with them about the importance of education in achieving personal and professional success. Amar'e and his wife and children gave out sneakers, books and toys to the students and families of Bro/Sis through his Amar'e Stoudemire Foundation, which also believes in creatively inspiring youth to excel through education and holistic self-development. The NBA star does international development work and supports youth in Mali, Sierra Leone and throughout the US. Our youth members were truly excited to meet him! After his visit, Bro/Sis family and friends enjoyed food and a talent show put on by our members and staff.

[Click here to read more about Amar'e Stoudemire's Visit](#)



Alumni in Focus!

Marsha Jean-Charles, Liberation Program & International Study Program alumna, shared her reflections on being part of Bro/Sis at our 6th annual Women's Holiday Tea on December 3, 2011. All of our guests were deeply moved by her words and experiences at Bro/Sis.

"If I had to put my experience at Bro/Sis into two words, I would choose: love and light. LOVE is in the cement foundation upon which our brownstone stands; it is in the creaks of our staircases; it is in the seams of the logo etched on t-shirts, our grins and teardrops....LIGHT. Lighted pathways, dreams, bookshelves, thoughts, smiles, eyes, eardrums... at all times, I turn to people, Bro/Sis people, because they are my people, and they are family... they are all a part of me. They will always be in my vision of a better tomorrow."

[Click here to see a video of Marsha's speech](#)



BHSS alum Frank Lopez was selected as a 2012 Fellow for The Game Changers Project. This national fellowship allows emerging black filmmakers to partner with community-based organizations (CBO's) to create "activist storytellers" across the nation. Game Changer fellows will work with local CBO's over 3 months and produce short films to support the work and missions of the CBO. The goal is to highlight the powerful and often untold stories of "community heroes, social justice advocates, ex-offenders, innovators, politicians, thought leaders, celebrities, professional athletes, and individuals working to improve outcomes for African American men and boys."



[Click here to read about the Game Changers](#)

BHSS Welcomes New Board Members!

Dr. Farah Griffin

A Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, Dr. Farah Jasmine Griffin is considered one of the top African-Americanists in the country. She received her B.A. from Harvard and her Ph.D. from Yale. The recipient of numerous honors and awards for her teaching and scholarship, she was the recipient of the Columbia Distinguished Faculty Award. She is the author of *Who Set You Flowin'?: The African American Migration Narrative* (Oxford University Press, 1995) and *If You Can't Be Free Be A Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday* (The Free Press, 2001). Her forthcoming book, *Harlem Nocturne: Black Women Artists and Politics in Mid-Century New York*, will be published in 2013.



Santiago Taveras

Santiago Taveras is the Vice President at Cambridge Education, an educational consulting firm. Prior to taking this position in 2011, Mr. Taveras served in the New York City's Department of Education (DOE) as the system's lead educator for it's 1.1 million children as the Deputy Chancellor for Teaching and Learning and also as Deputy Chancellor for Community Engagement. Mr. Taveras was a founding assistant director of East Side Community High School and the founding principal at both Banana Kelly High School and The Academy for Careers in Sports. Mr. Taveras received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from The City College of New York, a Masters Degree in Education from The City College of New York, and a Masters in Supervision and Administration from Bank Street College.

Reverend John Vaughn

Rev. John Vaughn currently serves at the Executive Vice President at Auburn Theological Seminary, where he is responsible for the overall planning and management of the Seminary. Prior, Rev. Vaughn served as the Program Director for the Twenty-First Century Foundation, a national foundation that advances strategic giving for Black community change. Rev. Vaughn is an ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches, received his undergraduate degree from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass and his Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. He is married to the Rev. Dr. P. Kimberleigh Jordan and they are the proud parents of a two sons, a ten-year old son named James and a six-year old named Caleb.



Events

Save the Date...
VOICES 8



THE BROTHERHOOD/SISTER SOL'S
ANNUAL BENEFIT

May 17, 2012



SisterSol

Established 1995

More Info? Contact us at:
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