



THE ALUMNI OF THE KUUMBA SINGERS OF HARVARD COLLEGE

Established 2009

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Dear Fellow "Kuumbabes"/ Kuumba Alumni:

Happy holidays and welcome to our newest Kuumba alumni from the Class of 2010. 2010 has been a very good year. The greatly anticipated 40th year celebration is now history and our Kuumba alumni association, also a shared interest group (SIG) of HAA, has completed its first full year of operation.

2010 presented wonderful opportunities to forge relationships and build bridges between the choir and our alumni. Kudos to Director Sheldon K.X. Reid, the choir executive board led by President Andrea Tyler '10, co-chairs Kaydene Grinnell '10 and Ashley Hutchinson '12 and the entire Kuumba organization for a beautifully planned and executed weekend. Our association was thrilled to support their efforts and to present our first annual report to the choir and membership. Kuumbabes of all ages enjoyed the celebratory banquet, Sunday ecumenical service, informal sing-alongs, participation in the concert and of course the annual "Post." *May We Forever Stand*—what a fitting title for this historic weekend replete with fellowship, reunion, connection and praise for our almighty God. And what a joy it was to see today's choir experience musical direction from every Kuumba director since 1970—Dr. Hugh Walters, Dr. Robert Winfrey and Mr. Sheldon Reid—and to join Kuumba co-founder Rev. Dr. Dennis Wiley in singing his original composition created especially for the concert.

What's next for the alumni association? During year two, we have two major organizational goals. First, we are intensifying our efforts to make the **alumni database** more comprehensive. Second, we are promoting and facilitating **regional gatherings of Kuumba alums** around the country and to do what we can to assure that our growing Kuumba community lives on strong beyond Harvard! The following alums have already committed to reach out socially to Kuumbabes in their hometowns as part of our pilot to find out what works:

Monica Huerta '03, Bay Area (huerta.monica@gmail.com)

Andrea Tyler '10, Boston (tyler.andrea@gmail.com)

Sara Eckhouse '06, DC (saraeckhouse@gmail.com)

Contact these Kuumbabes if you would like to come to a Kuumba gathering in one of these areas this winter! If you would like to organize an informal gathering in your region, our alumni association will provide you with contact information for alums near you. Please be in touch with us!

Improving the alumni database requires the help of Kuumba alums. **Please contact kuumbaalumni@gmail.com or any one of us on the executive team if you can spend even an hour looking over our current list of contacts for your friends or alums from your class year to help us fill in the gaps!**

Last spring, I joined Kuumba in Atlanta to experience Tour firsthand and get ideas on how we, as alums, can help in future tour planning (our board is already collaborating with this year's President, Matthews Mmopi '11, and his board to support their plans for the 2011 Bermuda spring tour). Thanks Atlanta alums for your help in identifying concert venues, great food and for showing up en masse at concerts. And you would have been proud to see Sheldon, the choir and musicians conduct an effective hands-on clinic on improvisational music that connected with urban middle school students and made it clear that college was within their reach. While there, I learned that many of you have photos and other memorabilia that you would like to share. The DuBois Institute has agreed to serve as repository for choir memorabilia—an initiative to be more fully developed in 2011.

Our mission is to formally build and sustain meaningful community among Kuumba alumni. We also assist the current choir in fulfilling its mission and activities including the annual tour, Black Arts Festival and memorabilia archival projects—all of which are made possible and better by donations to the Kuumba Singers' Annual Fund. Please make a generous contribution today.

May God bless and keep you.

Linda Jackson Sowell, AB '73, MSPH '76
President

PS—The official 40th Anniversary DVD will soon be available for sale from the choir. Stay tuned for details. And once available, consider hosting a gathering of alums this holiday season to watch the concert together!