



THE ALUMNI OF THE KUUMBA SINGERS OF HARVARD COLLEGE

Established 2009

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Dear Fellow “Kuumbabes”/ Kuumba Alumni:

It is my particular pleasure to formally announce the official creation of Kuumba’s very own Shared Interest Group (SIG) within the Harvard Alumni Association, *The Alumni of the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College*. If you sang, danced or provided musical accompaniment with Kuumba, you are automatically a member of our SIG!

Ours is truly an amazing story. An organization begun by two students, Dennis Wiley and Fred Lucas from the Class of 1972...with the torch of creativity and spirituality nurtured and dutifully passed along by only three choir directors—Hubert Walters, Robert Winfrey and now Sheldon K. X. Reid—and by more than 1,000 of us who have ministered to ourselves and others through song for close to 40 years.

On the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Kuumba Singers, the alumni gathered en masse and contributed the remaining funds required to consummate the choir’s endowment. As we approached this significant 40th year milestone, we felt that it was a fitting time to take yet another step to assure the long-term viability of our beloved Kuumba organization—the formation of our alumni association. **Our mission is to formally connect Kuumba alumni for the purposes of sustaining meaningful community among alumni and supporting the current Kuumba Singers in their fulfillment of Kuumba’s mission.**

Via our Articles of Incorporation, which can be found on Kuumba’s website, we have laid an initial framework for an organization that will ultimately be shaped entirely by your involvement. Thus far, we have envisioned an active network of regional groups of Kuumba alums who gather periodically to socialize-and sing. And we have imagined an easily-organized web of alums who can work together in groups to facilitate choir tours in their communities, provide technical assistance and financial support to the current choir, and embrace and support new graduates who join our ranks as alumni.

Please update your contact information, make known how you would like to be involved, and learn about upcoming events at www.kuumbasingers.org/alums.php. Also, establish a post.harvard.edu email forwarding account with HAA (the best way for your contact information to stay up-to-date) and sign up to receive their newsletter where we will also post our special events. **I propose to you an initial challenge—gather together Kuumbabes in your area for a year-end holiday celebration! Contact alumni liaison Teddy Hickman-Maynard for information and support.**

Thank you to the nearly one hundred alumni (out of the four hundred alumni for whom we have email addresses—please share yours if we don’t have it!) who supported the creation of our SIG by signing the petition of interest required by the Harvard Alumni Association. And for those of you who attended the recent Harvard Black Alumni Weekend, thanks for joining us at the Kuumba gathering for lunch at the Harvard Faculty Club—just a teaser for glorious occasions to come!

In closing, I have two messages: Support this year’s Kuumba Singers’ Annual Fund Drive. And second, plan to join us at the Kuumba Singers’ Fortieth Anniversary celebration in April 2010. More information to come shortly!

May God bless and keep you.

Linda Jackson Sowell, AB '73, MSPH '76

