LIVING THE DREAMS OF OUR ANCESTORS:
CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Friday, February 28, 2014, 6:30pm-9pm
HUSD Howard Thurman Chapel

Join the students of Howard University School of Divinity as we celebrate Black History Month. “Living the Dreams of Our Ancestors”: Celebrating our Past, Present and Future. It will be an evening designed with you in mind. It will be an event to remember our history as well as to celebrate our future. The celebration will be delivered through spoken word, dance, singing and drumming.

According to Erica Williams, a first year M.Div student and the visionary behind the event, “The focus of this event is to celebrate our heritage and to promote unity in the community at HUSD. The event is geared to propel the audience, to remember that we stand on the backs of those who came before us, and that we must continue the fight for equality.”

ADMISSION: Can goods; non-perishable food items; toiletries for men and women. All donations will go to S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat). Refreshments will be served immediately following the program. For more information, contact Howard Divinity students Erica Williams at rev.ericanwilliams@yahoo.com or Abena McCray at rev.abena@gmail.com.
Over the past three weeks, *The Weekly Word* has been missing in action. Since the beginning of February, I have been battling a cold or flu or something. Whatever it has been, it has caused me to be challenged, physically. Each time I would attempt to work on *The Weekly Word*, my energy level would not allow me to go forward. So for three weeks, I have mentally written *The Weekly Word* even though no words ever made it to a page. In the process of allowing my body to heal, I was reminded of the sense of community that exists here in the School of Divinity. No matter how fragmented things may feel, in a time of need, we are a community.

As a resident of Mays Hall, I live with my family. While I laid in my bed with an extremely high fever, the ladies on my floor (Calisa Hawes; Chiquita Richardson; Erica Williams; Jessica Mitchem; Jennifer Nash; Kyra Brown; Melissa McQueen; Ruth Maupin; and Viola Bradford) along with my son Carson, maintained around the clock vigil at the foot of my bed. They were not at all concerned with being infected with my cold. Their concern was for my healing and for my recovery. They were the embodiment of what Jesus meant in Matthew 25:31-40 when he stated:

> 31 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

> 37 Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”

> 40 And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

My sincere thank you to the entire HUSD community for your prayers and concerns.

Rhonda Rhea, Editor

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**HUSGA to Host “I Have A Dream” Vision Casting Party**

**Thursday, February 27, 2014, 7pm-9pm**  
**Pratt Room**

What are your dreams? What are your visions for the future? Join us as we reflect on the life, legacy and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through media and written work. The purpose of this event is to empower and encourage individual to make their vision plain for the foreseeable future. Bring your books, magazines, embellishments, etc. Other materials will be provided. In addition, the upcoming 2014-2015 SGA Executive Board Candidates will have the opportunity to Speak Out! For more information, contact the HUSD SGA at sgavpoutreach.husd@gmail.com.

The Weekly Word is a weekly publication of the Howard University School of Divinity published under the direction of Rev. Paula Hall, Manager of Media and Communications. The Weekly Word is published each Wednesday during the academic year. The deadline for weekly publication inclusion is each Monday. Written contribution by Faculty, Students, Staff, and Alumni are welcomed. For submissions or questions, contact::HUSDWeeklyWord@gmail.com.
A Reflection on a Rare Human Being: Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

By Sindile Dlamini, HUSA Alumnae, M.Div 2011

As Black History Month unfolds, prominent men and women of African descent in the United States are honored for their pioneering past and present achievements. This month cannot pass by without also recalling Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, whose life and legacy resonates with many African-Americans and their struggle for equality and justice. Closer to the Howard University campus, in 1994, he was recognized as a true Howard University son and conferred with an honorary degree for reflecting Howard University’s core values of truth and service. Indeed, I am still intrigued by the outpouring of sympathy at the passing of Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. (Tata means father in Mandela’s Xhosa language). The global leader has left an indelible mark on the lives of many people the world over.

Recently a colleague lamented his demise and continued to express accolades to Tata and described him as a rare human being. As I pondered, Nelson Mandela was indeed a rare human being who, at the time of his birth, was marked for greatness.

At birth, he was given the following name: Rolihlahla. In our culture the naming ceremony of a child carries great significance as it determines a child’s destiny. When translated, Rolihlahla, means “trouble maker.” And Mandela would become a troublemaker of great significance as he dared to speak truth to power to the point of twenty-seven years of incarceration. At his trial, he dared to say he was even prepared to die for the cause of a free and democratic South Africa. In prison, he continued to be a troublemaker, fighting for the rights of prisoners who were subjected to unbearable conditions. This caused him to win the respect of his jailers; to an extent that those who had imprisoned him were willing to begin negotiations for his release and set the stage for transforming South Africa into a democratic state.

Another flash back to his names: as a young child he attended Christian elementary school and his Methodist teacher gave him the name Nelson after the great Admiral Lord Nelson, a British Navy service man. It was the practice of missionaries to give African people English names when they arrived in Africa. Perhaps most African names were a tongue twister and they wanted African people to assimilate to the religious culture, yet on hindsight, this has led to Dubois’ “double consciousness” which most people of color wrestle with on a daily basis. Vicariously, like Lord Nelson, Nelson Mandela led and lived a life of service, consumed with serving his people through the political machinery and movement of the African National Congress party; after his release from prison, through successive negotiations it led to his appointment to serve as the first Black President of a free and democratic South Africa. In this position, he modeled reconciliation, forgiveness and social justice; rare character traits when it was expected that the South African cause for freedom would be won through the barrel of a gun, but was a negotiated settlement.

Finally after his death, we continue to reflect on a life well lived, a life that fulfilled its God given purpose and destiny. As a South African living in the United States, I marvel at how our histories continue to intersect and “Cry Freedom!” When I mention that I am from South Africa, most people will invariably ask me about Nelson Mandela. Indeed, he was a rare human being who touched lives not only in South Africa but in Europe, North and South America, and Asia as evidenced by his funeral.

The Psalm writer in Psalm 2:8 poses the following question, “ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession.” Sublimely, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela asked the question and God answered with a resounding yes for his life to embodied truth and service and encapsulate him to rare status. Long Live Madiba!
New Student Group at HUSD

Seminarians for Justice (SFJ) is a student-led, faith-based group, which seeks to advocate justice and fairness on an individual, communal, global and ecumenical level. Its vision is in keeping with Howard University School of Divinity: to embody a passion for justice and freedom, taking faith out of the classroom and into the public square.

True to their vision, Seminarians for Justice (SFJ) have hit the road running. They held their first organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 under the leadership of Kyra Brown, Ladale Benson and Erica Williams. On Friday, February 14, 2014 the members of Seminarians for Justice initiated a campaign called “Grab-bags for Good” and distributed toiletries, socks, and gloves to homeless residents in the District of Columbia. Each bag was tagged with a message of love. Under this campaign, the group “Spread the Love” and distributed more than 65 grab-bags.

If you are interested in supporting or joining this group, please see Ladale Benson, Kyra Brown, Faith Bynoe or Erica Williams.

Seminarians For Justice

Informational Meeting!

Join us this semester as we take faith to the public square!

All are welcome. Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 3-3pm. Student Lounge.

YOGA RETURNS AT HUSD!

Wednesdays, 3pm -4pm
Dates: February 26 – March 19, 2014 (No class held on March 12.)

The Office of Academic Affairs is sponsoring the HUSD Inaugural Yoga Class taught by Faith Bynoe, 2nd Year M.Div student. Faith Bynoe teaches yoga with passion and enthusiasm to community activists and residents. Teaching since 2010, Faith’s goal is to support her students personal search for balance of health and wellness as they manage life’s hectic pace. Strengthen your physical health while you expand your spiritual experience. Students, staff, and faculty are welcome. All sessions are free! Wear comfortable, loose clothing. Please bring your mat. If you do not have a mat, just bring yourself! Please contact Faith Bynoe at yigive@gmail.com for additional information.
HUSD Students Deliver Powerful Messages during their Initial Sermon

Third Year M.Div students Venita Enola-George and Melissa McQueen delivered powerful messages during their initial sermons at Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ Church in Washington, D.C. Venita George’s message titled, “Stretch for Your Blessing” encouraged us to go beyond our comfort zone to experience the blessings of God. Melissa McQueen’s message was titled, “There Are Streams in the Desert” encouraged us to remember that even in difficult times, God is ever present.

Several members of the HUSD community, including Dean Pollard and his wife Jessica; Dr. Hopson; Dr. Newheart; and Elder Serena Parks supported Venita and Melissa as they formally embark on their individual ministries. HUSD Community Members in attendance included: (Photo L-R) Kyra Brown, Erica Williams; Rhonda Rhea, Kevin Taylor, Marion Gibbs Dr. Michael Newheart; Sheena Hutchinson; Melissa McQueen; Elder Serena Parks; Dean Alton Pollard; Jessica Pollard; Jessica Mitchem; Elizabeth Norman; Venita George; Dr. Ronald Hopson (kneeling). Also in attendance but absent from photograph were Hazel Cherry and Angela Jones.

“GOD’S TROMBONES REVISTED”
SECONDARY CAST & PRODUCTION TEAM CALL
Friday, February 28 – Friday, March 7, 2014

The Howard University School of Divinity is planning a 21st Century adaptation of James Weldon Johnson’s seminal work, God’s Trombones, to be held in Fall 2014. The Casting Team for GOD’S TROMBONES REVISTED is seeking persons for secondary cast roles and production team members. All returning HU, HUSD, and Consortium students and graduating students who will be residing in the DC area in the Fall 2014 are encouraged to audition/interview. Auditions/interviews will be held at the Howard University School of Divinity. For an appointment and cast/position description, please email Crystal West at ms.c_west@yahoo.com or Rashid Hughes at rashid.hughes@gmail.com. This is a great opportunity to be a part of this 21st Century adaptation of an African American literary classic!
Upcoming HUSD Events

HUSD Independent Writing Project Call for Papers
The Return of Queen Vashti: The Voice of Prophetic Women Speaking Truth to Power

Students met on Saturday, February 1, 2014 to form a writing group in response to the above Call for Papers. This is an independent writing project for the students currently enrolled at Howard University School of Divinity. The project seeks original theological papers authored by students. Students must have completed at least one Biblical Studies class. The purpose is to provide a platform for students to gain publishable writing experience outside of the classroom.

Submission Guidelines:
The focus of the project will have a social justice slant. Using the story of Queen Vashti in Esther 1:1-22 as inspiration, students will write theological papers about women (or a woman) who have spoken truth to power. Submitted papers may be inspired by your own personal journey. Papers should be between 1500 and 3500 words in length (footnotes may extend the word limit 500 words at most). Papers should avoid unnecessary technicality and strive to be accessible to the widest possible audience without sacrificing clarity or rigor. They are evaluated on the following criteria: depth of inquiry, quality of research/academic rigor, creativity, lucidity, struggle, significance, and, most importantly, originality.

Submission Procedures:
Manuscripts should be in Microsoft Word (.doc) format and sent as an attachment to rrhea3@gmail.com. Manuscripts should be double-spaced (including quotations, excerpts, and footnotes) The right margin should not be justified. Include a cover page with the author’s name, program identification, title, and email address. Footnotes should follow Chicago/Turabian Manual of Style.

Submission Deadline:
Deadline Extended to March 15, 2014 at 11:59 PM to rrhea3@gmail.com.

All HUSD Students are invited to attend a writing meeting on Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 1:00 PM in the Divinity Library.

Frederick Sampson Preacher’s Series
Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 6:30pm
Howard Thurman Chapel
The Frederick Sampson Preacher’s Series features HUSD Seminarians sharing their messages about social justice. It is named after social justice icon Rev. Frederick Sampson (HUSD ’50) and will feature 2 students per session. The next event will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 6:30 pm with Rev. Patricia Boykins (3rd Year M.Div student) and Minister Rhonda Rhea (3rd Year M.Div student). Come and support our students, for there is a word, and there ARE preachers at HUSD!
Women in Seminary
A new group is forming which will focus on the journey and the unique voice of women in ministry. Contact Rhonda Rhea or Paula Hall for additional information. All are welcome!

BLACK RELIGIOUS HERITAGE & LGBT: WHAT’S THE CONNECTION?
Friday, March 21, 2014, 10am-12:30pm
HUSD Howard Thurman Chapel
In many Black churches, no one dares speak the words. LGBT people and their concerns are either invisible or viewed as divisive. The Bible is said to condemn. Yet a growing number feel troubled by these disconnects with our own LGBT brothers and sisters. Given that we as a people have historically approached the Bible through a lens of liberation and freedom, how does that lens apply to consideration of LGBT concerns? How can support for LGBT justice be consistent with your Christian faith? Beyond legal protections, what is the place of religious respect and affirmation of LGBT people and their families? Join Many Voices for an academy/community educational event. This panel of pastors and professors will create an opening for respectful dialogue and discussion in a Black church context.

· Rev. Cedric Harmon, Co-Director, Many Voices
· Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins, Pastor, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church
· Rev. Cynthia Moore, District Superintendent, United Methodist Church
· Rev. Dr. Ronald Hopson, Assistant Professor, Howard University School of Divinity
· Melissa McQueen, Seminarian, Howard University School of Divinity

Ample time will be allowed for audience questions and panel responses. This event is hosted by Many Voices (A Black Church Movement for Gay & Transgender Justice).

Nannie Helen Burroughs Lecture Series
March 24, 2014
Howard Thurman Chapel
The lecture is named after Nannie Helen Burroughs (1879-1961), an educator, orator, religious leader and businesswoman. She gained national recognition for her 1900 speech, "How the Sisters Are Hindered from Helping," at the National Baptist Convention. She founded the National Training School for Women and Girls at 601 50th St., NE., Washington, in 1909. The school has since been named after her and provides elementary education. The lecture was begun in 1985 as the Feminine in Religious Traditions Lecture by the Rev. Lawrence N. Jones, Ph.D., dean of the School of Divinity from 1975 to 1991. Jones said he wanted the lecture to “represent the Divinity School’s commitment to raise the level of dialogue about women in ministry to the highest level of scholarship and research.” The name was changed in 2009.

Hip-Hop Summit
Saturday, April 5, 2014, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM
Minister as Educator class presents Guest Lecturer Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum, Jr., author of Hip Hop is Not Our Enemy: From A Preacher Who Keeps it Real. Whalum has dedicated his life to proclaiming social justice for the citizens of Memphis, Tennessee, especially those who cannot speak for themselves, including musicians who speak through the medium of hip-hop.
FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

SUMMER 2014 FINANCIAL AID: Students who will need financial aid for the summer classes, should contact the Howard University Financial Aid Office for information on the summer financial aid application process.


For more information, contact the Howard University Financial Aid Office at 202-806-2820. You can schedule an appointment with the Howard University Financial Aid Office at http://stars.howard.edu/sfs.

2014-2015 The Weekly Word Editor
If you are interested in serving as the Editor of The Weekly Word for the 2014-2015 academic year, please contact Rhonda Rhea at husdweeklyword@gmail.com no later than March 15, 2014.

HUSD WINDSHIELD DECALS Available for Purchase
In response to the generosity of two-time HUSD alumnae, Rev. Dr. Michelle Hagans, and the diligent work on design and procurement of two-time alumnae and our Admission & Retention Coordinator, Elder Serena K. Parks, we have Howard University School of Divinity (HUSD) windshield decals. Displaying the decal will communicate your school spirit and pride. It will also open the door to serving as an ambassador (a.k.a. recruiter) for the Howard University School of Divinity. Please stop by Elder Parks’ office (Mays Hall Room 144) to pick up your decal. While you are there, ask Elder Parks about the other ways that you can participate in recruiting new students to the Howard University School of Divinity.

Calendar

HUSD Black History Program
Friday, February 28, 2014
6:30 PM

Frederick Sampson Preacher’s Series
Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 6:30pm
Howard Thurman Chapel

Ash Wednesday Chapel Service
Wednesday, March 5, 2014
5:30 PM

Spring Break
Saturday, March 8, 2014—
Sunday, March 16, 2014

BLACK RELIGIOUS HERITAGE & LGBT: What’s the Connection?
Friday, March 21, 2014,
10am-12:30pm
HUSD Howard Thurman Chapel

Nannie Helen Burroughs Lecture Series
March 24, 2014
Howard Thurman Chapel

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