

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Concert

# *Wait on the Lord*

Isaiah 40:28-31



Image by Rehema Trimiew

## *AKOMA*

*Rochester's African American Women's Gospel Choir*

**Saturday, June 9, 2012 - 6:30 PM**

**Mt. Vernon Baptist Church**

**351 Joseph Avenue - Rochester, New York**

And With My Song ...



# AKOMA: A HERSTORJCAL CHRONOLOGY

I am part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed Woman" that God wants to use.

I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My face is set; my gait is fast; my goal is heaven; my road is narrow.... my guide reliable.... my mission clear.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice; hesitate in the presence of adversity; negotiate at the table of the enemy; ponder at the pool of popularity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, or slow up...

Till I'm preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ.

I am an anointed woman of God: I am part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed Woman" that God wants to use. -Author Unknown

**AKOMA** is Rochester's African American Women's Gospel Choir whose West African Akan name means patience, endurance, consistency and faithfulness. **AKOMA's** adinkra symbol, the heart, indicates compassion, tenderness and charity. **AKOMA's** vocal and spoken word ministry is rooted in the African American sacred song and oral traditions.

After a debut performance in August of 1995 for Woman Fest-a day-long celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Right to vote-the group of thirty-five women decided to embrace a musical ministry that reflects their diverse faith traditions and love for gospel music. The group adopted the name **AKOMA** because it symbolizes their African heritage, spiritual roots and desire to serve the Rochester community. Dr. David A. Anderson/Sankofa recommended the name **AKOMA**, based on research and knowledge of the group's mission. Twenty-five Rochester area churches currently are represented on **AKOMA's** 2012 roster of more than 45 active sister-members.

On June 22, 1996, **AKOMA** made her debut concert and established the Nona Patterson Chambers (NPC) Scholarship in honor of her elder member and adopted mother. Three recipients received the Mother Nona Scholarship in its first year. Since that time and including the 2011 recipients, **AKOMA** has awarded seventy-five college-bound young African American women, a portion of the \$55,000 awarded as a part of the NPC Scholarship fund.

In February of 2012, **AKOMA** was featured with the Voices of Thunder in the City of Rochester's Annual Heritage Concert. **AKOMA** created the theme--- STEPPING OUT, LIFTING UP, and MOVING THROUGH: A CHORAL CELEBRATION OF BLACK WOMEN--- in recognition of the 2012 national focus on Black women in American history & culture. On December 24, 2011, **AKOMA** bid a sad farewell to 101 year old Mother Nona Patterson Chambers, their oldest and most cherished member & for whom their scholarship was named.

At the 2011 scholarship concert, **AKOMA** celebrated the 16 years of musical service provided by her founding conductor and principal soloist, DR. CHERYL MCGRUDER HOLLOWAY, as well as the tireless dedication to the sisterhood of Sister Cheryl's spouse, Attorney Oscar Holloway. On Sunday, October 24, 2010, **AKOMA** presented the last performance of the Bicentennial Concert Series of the First Presbyterian Church of Avon. The series was supported in part by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. In February, **AKOMA** was featured, along with the Voices of Thunder, for the Annual Heritage Concert hosted by the City of Rochester and the Heritage Committee. In March, **AKOMA** was the sole performer for the Music of the Movement Concert for Strong Museum's Making American Music Concert Series.

From July through March of 2009, **AKOMA** brought gospel music to the Greater Rochester community in six concerts: On July 31, we were featured at the River City Rhythms Concert at Corn Hill Landing where we invited the Nat Turner Drum Circle and the Immaculate Conception Liturgical Dancers to join us; On August 15, 2009, the sisters sang at the annual Clarissa Street Reunion; then on November 1, we traveled to the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fairport; Less than two weeks later, we provided an evening concert at St. John's Church in Spencerport; On February 20, we joined our brothers--- the Voices of Thunder--- for the Annual Heritage Concert held at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church; and finally on March 24, we ended our outside engagements with a full concert at Keuka College. We then hosted our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Concert. Early in 2009, **AKOMA** added to her wonderful store of memorable experiences: January of 2009 found the Sisters at SUNY-Geneseo where they presented the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Arlette Miller Smith, followed by the concert: "Lifting Weary Voices, Raising Freedom's Song: Black Sacred Music as Resistance in the Civil Rights Movement." On April 23, 2009, **AKOMA** and their adopted brothers- in- Christ group, the Voices of Thunder, joined the Rochester Philharmonic, under the direction of Jeff Tyzik, at the Eastman School of Music for TOTAL PRAISE, a gospel concert that celebrated the City's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A diverse and enthusiastic audience of more than 2,200 supported the collaboration between **AKOMA**, the RPO and the Voices of Thunder.

In September, we said "Hello" to several new members and a teary, heartfelt yet jubilant "Goodbye" to our then president Nancy Walters, who went to her heavenly home in September, 2009. We honor Nancy as a dedicated, faith-filled leader of **AKOMA** whose example of Christian living and sisterly love blessed us and who will be in our heart forever. And in October, **AKOMA** also lost her first videographer, Bro. Ben Pinkston— son-in-law of Mother Nona & husband of sister-member Esther Pinkston.

(Continued on page 3)

(AKOMA Herstory Continued from page 2)

In January, 2008 AKOMA created a herstorical concert called “Women Voicing in the Dream” at Hobart William Smith Colleges for their Annual Martin Luther King address. The keynote address, “Armored Resisters: African American Women in the Modern Civil Rights Movement,” was delivered by AKOMA’s founder and executive director, Dr. Arlette Miller Smith. The Sisters also joined the Voices of Thunder again for the Annual Heritage Gospel Concert, which was held in February at Mt Olivet Baptist Church.

In 2006-2007, AKOMA’s ministry schedule expanded with a number of new outreach venues including singing at St. John’s Catholic Church in Brockport and at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fairport. In February, the Sisters joined the Brothers of the Voices of Thunder in a combined concert as a part of the heritage celebration. Even the summer of 2007 was filled with AKOMA’s music and cultural messages as she traveled to Buffalo to provide a music ministry for the National Black Catholic Congress, in addition to two other summer engagements. The most significant change in the life of AKOMA during 2006-2007 was the home-going of four dedicated long-time members who are now “Sisters on the Other Side”: Brenda Robinson, Martha Davis-Wilcox, Sharon Williams, and Eula Bostick.

During 2005-2006, AKOMA’s ministry included the following engagements: the annual Pennington-Moye VFW Post concert; the Penfield Symphony Annual Christmas Concert; the William Warfield Scholarship Concert; Memorial Art Gallery’s & the Arts & Cultural Council’s *Women’s Voices: African American Gospel Singers Program* in honor of National Women’s History Month (*Sacred Songs of the Sisterhood*); and the Alpha Phi Alpha 74th Eastern Regional Conference Sunday Worship Service.



In 2004, at the Strong Museum AKOMA participated in a major production titled, “From Struggle to Strength: Gospel Then and Now,” in which the group chronicled in song the evolution of gospel music as a means of strength through the struggle for freedom. As a part of Strong Museum’s, “Creating American Music,” Series *Struggle* was written and arranged by AKOMA’s executive director, Dr. Arlette Miller Smith with assistance from sister-member Ramona Moore.

Since her 1995 inception year, AKOMA has been privileged to sing with Grammy Award winner Larnelle Harris; to appear on a number of local television shows; to provide music for a program featuring Seattle poet laureate Mona Lake Jones who wrote the poem, “A Room Full of Sisters” which AKOMA uses as her spoken word anthem; to provide the music for programs honoring Bishop Desmond Tutu; to sing with the Penfield Symphony at several of their annual holiday concerts; and to be featured at the National Black Catholic Congress Conference in Buffalo, New York. Early in her spiritual life, AKOMA also was blessed to present a commissioned docudrama, “Stirring the Waters, Tending the Pots,” written by her founder, Arlette Miller Smith. “Stirring,” a suffrage-related drama, was performed at Geva Theatre as a part of the 150th anniversary of the women’s rights convention at Seneca Falls.

AKOMA’s current executive music director is Karen Summers; the executive music conductor is Dorothy Wilson; the Scholarship Commission chair is Carol Castle; the director of bookings and concert confirmation is Ruth Anderson. The founder, executive & artistic director is Dr. Arlette Miller Smith.

The herstory of AKOMA’s evolution as an organization is the title of the unpublished dissertation: *Speaking the Song, Spreading the Word, Lifting the People---The Reimagination of Community Through Vocal Music Activism* (2005) by Dr. Arlette Miller Smith.

For AKOMA concert bookings, please email [akomagc@gmail.com](mailto:akomagc@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.akoma.org](http://www.akoma.org).

*And with my song... will I praise Him. (Ps. 28:7)*

# ~ MOTHER'S MEMORIAM ~

## Mother Nona Patterson Chambers

June 30, 1910 – December 24, 2011

*A strong woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey, but a woman of strength has faith that it is the JOURNEY that makes her strong.*



Nona Patterson Chambers was born on June 30, 1910 in Red Level, Florida to Rev. William Patterson and Ms. Frankie Townsend. On December 24, 2011 she chose to go and take her rest with Jesus Christ her Lord and Savior. She accepted Jesus as a child at the Peyton AME Church in Clyattville, GA, where she served faithfully for many years. She also lived and served in Crystal River Florida at the Bethel AME Church for many years along with her father the late Rev. William Patterson. She moved to Rochester, NY in the late Eighties and continued her life of servant hood at the Faith Covenant National Church of God under the leadership of Bishop Lewis T. Brown and the late Ida Brown.

At Faith Covenant, Mother Nona served as a licensed Missionary, Altar assistant, Choir member (soprano), and in the Ladies Willing Workers Band who visited the sick and shut-in and held home Bible studies.

Her passion for the youth department was outstanding. She baked muffins and cookies for Sunday School snacks. She also baked delicious biscuits for the church cook outs. She attended and sang in the street ministry in various locations around Rochester, NY. She was the number-one tambourine player in morning worship. She would sing "Soul and Body belong to God" until she had covered the entire skeleton.

She is the mother of five sons and three daughters. Herman (Louise) Dixon (deceased); Charles (Dorothy) Dixon (deceased); Isaiah (Loretta) Dixon (deceased); Willie Frank Dixon (deceased); Albert Lee Patterson Sr. - Valdosta, GA; Rosa Lee (James) Harrell (deceased); Joanne (Louis) Shine; Queen (Benjamin) Pinkston; Grands: Sheila Dixon - Tampa, Fla.; Larry Herman Dixon - Miami, Fla.; Charles (Sheila) Dixon; Alphonso Dixon (deceased); Alfred Dixon; Richard Dixon all of Miami, Fla.; Isavette Dixon (deceased), - Miami, Fla.; LaWanda Dixon; Daron Dixon; - Miami, Fla.; Bobbie Jean (Edwin) Rivera - Valdosta, GA; Geneva (Thomas) Hamilton - Valdosta, GA; James (Maggie) Harrell -Valdosta, GA; Leon (LaShon) Harrell - Jacksonville, Fla.; Leona (Richard) Davis - Surprise, AZ.; Deborah (Erick) Lucas - Adel, Ga.; Jehu (Leslie) Shine - Adel, GA; Esther Shine - Adel, GA; Daniel (DeAnna) Shine - Adel, GA; Elizabeth Shine - Adel, GA; Phyllis Patterson - Valdosta, GA; Deborah (Willie) Knight - Waycross, GA; Albert Lee Patterson, Jr. - Buford, GA; thirty-five grandchildren and a host of great and great-great grandchildren, family and friends.



Mother Nona was preceded in death by her father Rev. William Patterson, her mother Frankie Townsend; her husband William Chambers; her sons: Herman, Charles and Dorothy Dixon, Isaiah, Willie Frank; her daughter Rosa lee & Husband James Harrell and her son-in-law Benjamin Pinkston.



# In MEMORIAM

## The Heart of AKOMA --- Our Sisters on the Other Side

*Edna Rice, Brenda Robinson, Martha Davis-Wilcox, Sharon Williams, Zula Bostic Nancy Walters,  
Pat Swails-Dillard, & Mother Nona Patterson Chambers*

You are gone from our presence, but the treasured memories of you will always remain strong.  
So many times we rejoiced together with you, lifting our voices to God in song.

You epitomized AKOMA and everything for which we have stood,  
Patience, endurance, consistency, faithfulness...the traits you lovingly shared with the sisterhood.

God has called you to Him, and now in His heavenly choir you sing  
With your beautiful voices, praising our magnificent Savior and King.

Written by Kathy Damann, May 2008



♥ Patricia A. Swails-Dillard  
October 22, 1951— March 14, 2012  
Jefferson Avenue SDA Church



♥ Nancy Walters, AKOMA President  
January 4, 1947— September 8, 2009  
Memorial AME Zion Church

The sisters of AKOMA also acknowledge the passing of affiliate member Viola Kribich-Brown who was unable to continue in our ministry for health-related reasons.

♥ Zula Bostic  
September 23, 1926 — September 26, 2007  
Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church



♥ Sharon Louise Hurst Williams  
March 10, 1941 — April 16, 2007  
Jefferson Avenue SDA Church



♥ Martha Davis-Wilcox  
November 27, 1941 — January 13, 2007  
Miracle Outreach Church of God



♥ Brenda Denise Fields Robinson  
December 16, 1951 — August 17, 2006  
Second Baptist Church-Mumford



♥ Edna Mae Lattimore Rice  
September 23, 1933 — December 29, 2000  
Second Baptist Church-Mumford

# Wait on the Lord

## AKOMA's 17th Annual Scholarship Concert Programme

Isaiah 40:28-31 ... But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. KJV

### ♥♥♥ Praise, Prayer, Preparation ♥♥♥

*Prelude*

Karen Summers

*Opening Prayer  
Welcome*

Rev. Dr. Vera Miller  
Rita Mitchell

### ♥♥♥ Part I ♥♥♥

*Selections*

- "Get Right Church and Let's Go Home"
- "Anything" (Ensemble)
- "Seeking for a City"
- "Isaiah 40"

Soloist: Maggie Moore Holley  
Soloist: Carmen Allen

### ♥♥♥ Scholarship Recognition ♥♥♥

*Scholarship Presentations*

- "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Carole Castle, Scholarship Commissioner  
Soloist: Rev. Dr. Vera Miller

### ♥♥♥ Offering ♥♥♥

### ♥♥♥ Part 11 ♥♥♥

*Selections*

- "Wait on the Lord"- original poem
- "The Battle is the Lord's"
- "I Made It"
- "Blessed Assurance"
- "You are the One"

Ja'Daiza Johnson  
Soloist: Rev. Dr. Vera Miller  
Soloist: Rose Stokes  
Soloist: Gloria Wilson  
Soloist: Maggie Moore Holley

*Tribute to Mother Nona*

- "Soul and Body"

Soloist: Rita Mitchell

*Signature Song*

- "I Still Have Joy"\*

Soloist: Maggie Moore Holley

*Invitation/Benediction*

Rev. Dr. Harmon Stockdale, Sr.

*\*All former & on-leave AKOMA sisters please join us in song*

♥♥♥ *Special Thanks to Rev. Dr. Harmon Stockdale, Sr. and the Mt. Vernon Family.* ♥♥♥

♥♥♥ GUEST BIOS ♥♥♥

**Reverend Dr. Vera Evans Miller**

Rev. Dr. Miller was born Vera Evans in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the youngest of five siblings. After graduating from high school, she attended Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama where she earned a B.A. degree in chemistry and secondary education. Miller continued her studies by completing two Masters programs: the first in Science Education in Counseling from SUNY Brockport and the latter from Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School (CRCDS). On May 14, 2005, Rev. Miller was granted a Doctor of Divinity degree in Transformational Leadership from CRCDS.



Rev. Dr. Miller is a retired science teacher, a member of the Rochester Police Department Clergy Response Team and a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. For the past 16 years, she has served faithfully as the pastor of the Genesee Baptist Church where she has seen attendance triple under her leadership. Her outstanding vocal talent has led her to numerous singing engagements including concerts at the Eastman Theater and Carnegie Hall.

Miller has three adult children and three grandchildren. Parent, Educator, Pastor, Mentor, Community Activist and Singer: "To God be the glory" for the unmistakable manifestation of His presence in the life of Rev. Dr. Vera Evans Miller.

**Anthony "Tony" Payne**

Anthony (Tony) Payne, Jr. is a member of the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Buffalo, where Dr. John W. Williams is his pastor. Anthony began playing drums for his church at the age of six and currently is an active member of the church's youth choir. Anthony is a senior at the Maritime School in Buffalo, New York. He is the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Lonny Kimble and Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Payne.

**Ja'Daiza Johnson**

Ja'Daiza Johnson is currently a junior at Roberts Wesleyan College, majoring in Marketing and Humanities with a minor in music and a concentration in fine arts. Her activities at Roberts include chapel committee, step team, dance ministry, Black kick back committee, Unified tae kwon do, and jazz music. She is also very active in the performing arts ministry at her home church of First Genesis, and as a youth department youth advisor. She has been writing for as long as she can remember and began her performance poetry career in high school after becoming a member of the Rochester slam poetry team Slam High. She continues to write for various community events such as the Clothesline festival, many events for the Harley School, Roberts Wesleyan College, churches and many other community events.

**AKOMA's Support Team/Acknowledgements**

Officers/Committee Chairs

- Exec. Director/Founder - Dr. Arlette Miller Smith
- Exec. Music Director & Music Committee Chair - Karen Summers
- Co-Pres. - Ruth Anderson & Cheryl Johnson
- Co-VPs - Phyllis Griffin & Rita Mitchell
- Treasurer - Myrtle Day
- Assistant Treasurer - Gloria Wilson
- Attendance Clerk - Anita Simpson
- Chaplain - Clara Warfield
- Parliamentarian - Julia Lawson
- Herstorian - Eunice White
- Membership Comm. Co-Chairs - Carolyn Butts & Kathy Damann
- Finance Comm. Chair - Evelyn-Greenwade-Boltwood
- Scholarship Comm. Chair - Carole Castle
- Fund Raising Comm. Chair - Arlene Williams
- PR Comm. Co-Chairs - Anita Simpson & Rose Stokes
- Tech. Support Comm. Co-Chairs - Julia Lawson & Anita Simpson
- Hospitality - Sylvia Walker
- Retreat - Clara Warfield
- Web - Dr. Arlette Miller Smith

- Conductors
- Dorothy Bowman Wilson
  - Kathy Damann

- Drummer
- Tony Payne

- Special Guests
- Rev. Dr. Vera Miller
  - Ja'Daiza Johnson

Ushers

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Abraham Butts        | Lonnie Day        |
| Joanne Gordon        | Rev. Terry Holley |
| Shelly Lucas         | Linda Phillips    |
| Georgia Ann Prescott |                   |

Offering

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Abraham Butts              | Lonnie Day      |
| Rev. Terry Holley (Prayer) | Arlene Williams |

Nurse

- Gloria McCullough

Technical Other/Support

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Lonnie Day    | Julia Lawson  |
| Anita Simpson | Lonnie Kimble |

Layout & Design/Web Support

- Art Smith

Scholarship Booklet

- |                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Dr. Arlette Miller Smith, editor |            |
| Ruth Anderson                    | Myrtle Day |
| Cheryl Johnson                   |            |

Printing

- Art Smith/Larry Wells  
St. John Fisher College Print Center



*If you plan for a year, sow a seed;  
 If you plan for a decade, plant a tree;  
 If you plan for a century, educate the people.*  
 - Dr. Addie Mitchell

## Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship (June 30, 1910—December 24, 2011)

The Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship was named in honor of our AKOMA mother, Nona Patterson Chambers. Mother Nona's life exemplified the meaning of the word AKOMA. She demonstrated patience, endurance, consistency and faithfulness. Mother Nona, a revered elder of Faith Covenant National Church of God in Christ, was an encouragement to all of their youth. She served as an example of what it really means to be a dedicated and humble Christian. Mother Nona received a third grade education but returned to school as an adult to complete her education. Her

quiet manner, Christian beliefs, and steadfast loyalty to her family and choir make it fitting that AKOMA's scholarship be named in her honor.

## 2011-2012 AKOMA SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION

*Carole Castle - Chairperson*

Ruth Anderson  
 Rita Mitchell

Musette Castle  
 Rose Stokes

## Ministry Through Music: An AKOMA Chronology

2012	Wait On The Lord	Isaiah 40:28-31
2011	Cast Your Cares Upon The Lord	I Peter 5:7
2010	Give Thanks to The Lord	I Chronicles 16:8
2009	Rest in Him	Matthew 11:28
2008	Blessed & Highly Favored	Luke 1:28
2007	Love One Another	John 13:34-35
2006	From Struggle to Strength: Sacred Songs of the Sisterhood	2 Corinthians 12:10
2005	...And With My Song Will I Praise Him	Psalms 28:7
2004	Let Everything That Hath Breath Praise The Lord	Psalms 150
2003	With My Whole Heart	Psalms 138:1
2002	Constant Blessings	Ephesians 1:3
2001	More Than Enough	Isaiah 12:2
2000	We Give You Praise	Psalms 63:3-4
1999	Better Than Blessed	Psalms 34:8-10
1998	Perpetual Praise	Psalms 34:1
1997	I Have Hope	Hosea 2:15
1996	Come Let Us Sing	Psalms 28:7



# 2012 AKOMA Scholarship Recipients

## Tiara Jackson

Tiara's mother is Sonya Cunningham. She is a senior at The Harley School and has been accepted to the University of Dayton. Tiara is considering a career in Business. She is a Black Scholar and has been awarded the Alpha Kappa Alpha Brandon Memorial Scholarship. Tiara's school activities include tennis, bowling, softball, Bible Study Club and the Diversity Roundtable. At the Church of Love Faith Center she has been a youth leader involved with the flag ministry, youth ministry and Vacation Bible School.

## Fallon Brooks

Fallon Brooks is the daughter of Mary Robinson. She will graduate from Churchville-Chili Senior High School and plans to enter Monroe Community College where she will be a Physical Therapy major. Her intention is to continue her studies at the University of Buffalo and receive her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Fallon's extracurricular activities include participation on the basketball, indoor and outdoor track and step teams. She participated in school community service activities as well as Kuumba Kids and the Kopy Kat Dance group. At Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church Fallon has been a youth usher, member of the youth choir, and assistant coordinator for the youth department as well as a speaker for the Women's Day "Rose Bud" program.

## Camaria Long

Camaria is the daughter of Aaronda Clarkson and Christopher Long. She will graduate from Aquinas Institute and attend the University of Buffalo as a member of the Women's track team. Her future career is in Nursing. At Aquinas Camaria has been a member of the indoor and outdoor track & Field Teams, the Diversity Club, Women's Leadership Club and student recruitment. She also participates in the Big Brother/Big Sister Program. As a member of Church of the Epiphany, Camaria is a Eucharistic Minister as well as a member of the YAC (Young Adults at Church). She recently completed her Girl Scout Gold Award, has participated in Flower City Work Camp, Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, Golisano Children's Hospital and Cameron Ministries.



*The 2012 recipients have been awarded scholarships by the AKOMA Scholarship Committee based on their grade point averages; written essay; school and community activities; letters of reference and personal interviews. The recipients' biographical information provided by Commissioner Ruth Anderson.*

## Kaila Knight

Kaila's parents are Kathryn Castle and Kelvin Knight. After Kaila graduates from Aquinas Institute she will attend Nazareth College and major in Social Work or Early Childhood Education. Her extracurricular and community activities include the Women's Leadership Club, Habitat for Humanity and St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. Kaila's service to Immaculate Conception Church is as lead Altar Server. She also assists with Children's Liturgy of the Word and with religious education. She has been named a Black Scholar. Kaila is also proud of her grandmother, Rudean Knight, who is a long time member (40 + years) of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church.

## Jasmine Williams

Jasmine's parents are Melanie and Joseph Williams. When she graduates from Greece Arcadia High School, as a Black Scholar, she is considering a major in Dental Hygiene at Monroe Community College. Her extracurricular activities include the Key Club and National Honor Society, Volleyball and Track Teams as well as the Math Team. In the community she assisted a hospitalized neighbor, helped at Foodlink and Sojourner House. As a member of Spiritus Christi Church she serves as Religious Education Assistant to the Director. She participated as Assistant to the director of Vacation Bible School.

The Sisters of AKOMA thank the Women's Ministry at Jefferson Avenue Seventh Day Adventist Church for their recent generous donation of \$500 to the NPC Scholarship Fund, as well as their acknowledgement at their 2012 Women's Day of our on-going commitment and support of college-bound young African American women.

AKOMA also acknowledges all those supporters who have followed our ministry across the years and who sent unsolicited scholarship donations for this year.

We offer you the heart of AKOMA for your continued support.

## 2012 *AKOMA* Scholarship Recipients

Fallon Brooks                      Tiara Jackson  
Kaila Knight                      Camaria Long  
Jasmine Williams

## 2011 *AKOMA* Scholarship Recipients

CleAnn Davis                      Moiet James  
Amonee Read                      Shanice Taylor  
Dionna Warfield

## 2010 *AKOMA* Scholarship Recipients

Tiffany Bakou                      Robertha Barnes  
Renada Bertram                      Dominique Donadelle  
Donielle Kelly                      Maya Smith  
Chantelle White

## 2009 Scholarship Recipients

Meghan Cornwall                      Brittney Johnson  
Isis Mounts                      Deneshia Samuda  
Jocelyn Williams

## 2008 Scholarship Recipients

Michelle Fletcher                      Courtney Green  
Angela Ketterer                      Tara McCracken  
Ebony Robinson

## 2007 Scholarship Recipients

Brittney Hills  
Danielle Richardson  
Sherrita Wilkins

## 2006 Scholarship Recipients

Porsha Coaxm  
Katrina Griffith  
Alyshia Thomas

## 2005 Scholarship Recipients

Ashley Brass                      Angelica Davis  
Tiffany Ellis

## 2004 Scholarship Recipients

Krystal Crawford  
Desiree Israel  
Leslie Pierre-Philippe

## 2003 Scholarship Recipients

Kierstyn Blair  
Kari McCree  
Lauryn Minter

## 2002 Scholarship Recipients

Kekeria Achola Bitek                      Porcia Nicole Hartzog  
Tiffany Nicole Jackson                      Tyra Victoria Kelly  
Starr Celeste Myers  
Nathalie Martin Pierre-Philippe  
Angela Yvonne Stockdale                      Yolanda Renee Uter

## 2001 Scholarship Recipients

Peta-Gae Andrade                      Shemeka Davis  
LaTia Dukes                      Takara Gray  
Aja Houston                      Brandi Howard  
Shakira Nelson                      Natasha Nichole Stevens  
Delora Nicole Turner                      Kirkshintina Turnipseed  
Uwem Udofa

## 2000 Scholarship Recipients

Tyanisha Brown                      Margaret Neal Enis  
Lindsey Green                      Deidre Hill  
Brandy Rosier                      Sherell Scott  
Leah Thompson                      Re'shawna Turner  
Naomi Woffard

## 1999 Scholarship Recipients

Johnique Ter'esa Billups  
Erica Michelle Bryant  
Kimberly Alecia Thurman  
Sonia Elizabeth Uter

## 1998 Scholarship Recipients

La-Toya Dukes  
Katrina Louise Jones  
Tamisha N. Smith  
Melody Terese Williams

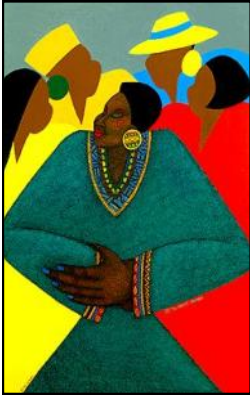
## 1997 Scholarship Recipients

Tameka Avant                      Danielle Gaston  
Yuressa Hubbard                      Rashida Moore

## 1996 Scholarship Recipients

April N. Anderson                      Donnye Graham  
Shalewa Hardaway

Image by Synthia St. James



# Herstory, Heart & Heritage — An Invitation

January-February, 2012

*Dear African American Women's Organization Members:*

Following the lead of the national Association for the Study of African American Life and History's 2012's theme--- Black Women in American Culture and History-- the City of Rochester's Black Heritage Committee designated this year's local theme as **THE YEAR OF THE BLACK WOMAN**. We, the sisters of AKOMA, Rochester's African American women's gospel choir, extend a cordial invitation to all women— and especially to African American women's religious, social, civic, philanthropic, educational and other community organizations— to attend the City of Rochester's Heritage Gospel Concert. Come and celebrate those who carry the legacy of the women who “have been the solid foundation upon which the African American community has been sustained and nurtured” (2012 Heritage Committee Statement).

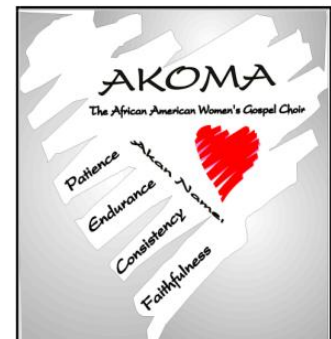
The concert--- **STEPPING OUT, LIFTING UP, and MOVING THROUGH: A CHORAL CELEBRATION OF BLACK WOMEN**--- featuring AKOMA and the Voices of Thunder will be held on **Saturday, February 18, 2012**, beginning at 6:00 pm at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church located at 141 Adams Street.

Anticipating a special evening of song, spoken word and spiritual praise, we look forward to having you celebrate with us the roads traveled and the journeys ahead. Join with us in sisterhood & in community as we “sing a song full of” faith, hope, love, patience and prosperity on behalf of past, present and future sojourners.

Come adorned in love and **clothed in your official dress and/or colors** as we collectively celebrate, salute and acknowledge the achievements, commitment and perseverance of African American women.

**The Sisters salute the 2012 Heritage recipients Keischa Higdon, Dr. Cynthia McGill, Melanie Silas and our own Founder/Executive Director, DR. ARLETTE MILLER SMITH**

Yours in Christ, Community & Celebration,  
The Sisters of AKOMA



# AKOMA's 2012 Church Roll

## **Advent Bible Fellowship**

*Pastor: Mr. Louis Shorter*  
Cecille Shorter

## **Aeon Baptist**

*Pastor: Rev. James Cherry, Sr.*  
Debra E. W. Bell

## **Breath of Life SDA**

*Pastor: Pastor Willie Wright, Jr.*  
Deseree Bliss  
Carolyn Butts  
Evelyn Greenwade Boltwood  
Cheryl Y. Johnson  
Roxanne Wright

## **Bridge Builders Ministries**

*Pastor: Phil Harlow*  
Phyllis Griffin

## **Fairport Community Baptist**

*Pastor: Brian Warner*  
Dr. Arlette Miller Smith

## **Faith Covenant National Church of God**

*Pastor: Bishop Lewis Brown, Jr.*  
Esther Pinkston

## **Faith Hope and Charity Worship Center**

*Pastor: Bishop John Crocker*  
Rosa L. Taylor-Payne

## **Faith Temple**

*Pastor: Steve & Darla Edlin*  
Sharon Barber

## **The Father's House**

*Pastor: Pastor Pierre DuPlessis*  
Kathy Damann

## **First Church of God**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dwight Fowler*  
Myrtle Day  
Regina Fowler  
Gloria McCullough

## **Full Gospel Tabernacle**

*Pastor: Rev. Ira White*  
Clara Warfield

## **Genesee Baptist**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Vera Miller*  
Ruth Scott

## **Goodwill Baptist**

*Pastor: Rev. James L. Cuyler*  
Emma "Cheri" Miller  
Michelle Antionette Miller

## **Grace Episcopal**

*Pastor: The Rev. Christopher Streeter*  
Nina Johnson

## **Immaculate Conception**

*Pastor: Father Robert Bradler*  
Carole Castle  
Musette Castle  
Rose Stokes

## **Jefferson Avenue SDA**

*Pastor: Pastor Kenneth Green*  
Valerie White-Whittick  
Dorothy Bowman Wilson

## **Memorial AME Zion**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kenneth Q. James*  
Carmen C. Allen  
Rosa Lee Dukes  
Ella Reed  
Sylvia Walker  
Eunice White

## **Mt. Vernon Baptist**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Harmon E. Stockdale*  
Rita Mitchell  
Karen Summers

## **New Bethel CME**

*Pastor: Rev. Weldon G. Thomas*  
Julia A. Lawson  
Anita Simpson  
Gloria Wilson

## **Parkminister Presbyterian**

*Pastor: Pastor Fritz Longabaugh*  
Yvonne Lewis-McDonald

## **Prayer House Church of God by Faith**

*Pastor: Pastor Dr. George Dailey*  
Marcelle Davis

## **Second Baptist - Mumford**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Charles A. Thurman*  
Marilyn Johnson  
Shelley Lucas  
Catherine Parker  
Arlene Williams

## **Simple Truth Ministries**

*Pastor: Pastor Jerry Holley*  
Maggie Moore-Holley

## **Spiritus Christi**

*Pastor: Rev. Mary Rammerman*  
Elaine Lane

## **St. Luke/St. Simon's Cyrene**

*Pastor: Rev. Michael Hopkins*  
Ruth Anderson  
Irene Marrero