19th Annual Scholarship Concert

A Marvelous Thing

1st Timothy 2:5-6

AKOMA
Rochester’s African American Women’s Gospel Choir

Saturday, June 14, 2014 - 6:30 PM
Bethel Christian Fellowship
321 East Avenue - Rochester, New York

And With My Song ...
❤❤❤❤
AKOMA: A HERSTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

AKOMA HERSTORY 2013-2014

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

OVERVIEW

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 75th 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-seven Rochester area churches currently are represented on AKOMA’s 2013 roster of more than 50 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 2012 recipients, AKOMA has awarded eighty college-bound young African American women, a portion of the $62,000 collected as a part of the NPC Scholarship fund.

SEPTEMBER, 2013-2014

AKOMA’s 19th year began in October with ministry in song at the Abundant Life Faith Ministry. January found us singing at the funeral service of our special AKOMA man Marvell Payne. In February, AKOMA and the Voices of Thunder were featured at the Annual Heritage Gospel Concert that was held at First Genesis Baptist Church. In March, the Gates Presbyterian Church family invited us to present a concert to benefit our scholarship fund. April found us mourning our sister Rosa Taylor Payne as we participated in her home going service. AKOMA traveled in April to Spencerport again where she gave a featured concert at St. John’s the Evangelist Church. In May, AKOMA mourned the passing of Rep. Louise Slaughter’s husband, Robert Slaughter where we sang at his funeral service. August will find the sisters relaxing at their annual retreat. This year’s Retreat theme is “Growing in Grace.”

In August of 2012, AKOMA endorsed her third executive music director, Ms. Gloria Brooks who began her work with the sister-ministry in September. In October, AKOMA provided music for the Young Women of Color Empowerment Conference’s worship service that was held at Elim Christian Fellowship. In February, AKOMA and the Voices of Thunder were featured at the Annual Heritage Gospel Concert that was held at Immaculate Conception Church. In March, AKOMA traveled to Spencerport where she gave a featured concert at St. John’s the Evangelist Church. August will find the sisters planning and relaxing at their annual retreat. The theme is “Mind, Body, Spirit Investing in You”. AKOMA lost two of her founding members: Hattie Welch (January 5, 2013) & Marguerite B. Lucas (April 16, 2013).

February of 2012, AKOMA was featured with the Voices of Thunder in 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. At the end of the 2012 Scholarship Concert, AKOMA said good bye to her second executive music director, KAREN C. SUMMERS who decided to retire.

ADDITIONAL CHRONOLOGY

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

(Continued on page 3)
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 14th 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 175th 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 firstvideographer, Bro. Ben Pinkston— son-in-law of Mother Nona & husband of sister-member Esther Pinkston.

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 Resistors: 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 musical 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: 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 akomage@gmail.com or visit our website at www.akoma.org.

And with my song... will I praise Him. (Ps. 28:7)
Rosa L. Taylor-Payne accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age in Birmingham, Alabama. In later years and after relocating to Rochester, NY, Sister Payne married the love of her life, Brother Marvell Payne, Sr. who proceeded her in death by just a few months. They had seven children. Rosa L. Taylor-Payne was a beloved and dedicated 41-year tithe paying disciple and church mother at Faith, Hope and Charity Worship Center under the pastorate of Bishop John Crocker, Senior Pastor and Elder Theresa T. Crocker, Pastor.

Sister Payne was a woman of distinction with a heart for taking care of her family and anyone who needed love, laughter, wisdom and encouragement. She was always sharing her funny stories and jokes, but could never make it to the punch line before laughing her way through!

Rosa loved singing gospel music and was an active member of “Payne and Payne,” the singing group created with her late husband. Payne and Payne traveled throughout the city of Rochester and to Charlotte, NC ministering at various churches, weddings, and family reunions. Their special requested songs were “You Are So Beautiful,” “How Great Thou Art,” and the people’s favorite, “The Robin Song”. Along with her late husband, she also enjoyed acting in local plays.

Sister Rosa was a founding member of AKOMA. More importantly, she was a passionate, active, and contributing member. Even after her retirement because of ill health, she continued to attend concerts and always dressed in the selected AKOMA attire. She served faithfully as one of the first attendance clerks and later as the herstorian. “Her Honey” was always with her at AKOMA events and was proud to be called an AKOMA man! Boxes of AKOMA photos, programs, fliers, minutes and more, are still catalogued at her home, waiting to be archived—all are the fruit of Sister Payne’s diligence and dedication to the AKOMA sisterhood she cherished.

Although diagnosed with Onset Acute Leukemia, just four days after her beloved husband’s home-going, Sister Rosa STILL could be heard saying “I am too Blessed To Be Stressed”! I BELIEVE THE REPORT OF THE LORD! Rosa L. Taylor-Payne was a living example of how to live life with love, grace, honor, humor and tenacity.
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, Marguerite B. Lucas & Rosa Taylor Payne

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 AKOMA sister Kathy Damann, May 2008

♥ Rosa Taylor Payne (Past Herstorian)
April 27, 1935 — April 3, 2014
Faith, Hope and Charity Worship Center

♥ Hattie Welch
December 8, 1927 — To January 5, 2013
Second Baptist Church - Mumford

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

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

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

♥ Marguerite B. Lucas
May 18, 1927 – April 16, 2013
Second Baptist Church - Mumford

♥ Mother Nona Patterson Chambers
June 30, 1910 — December 24, 2011
Faith Covenant National Church of God

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

♥ 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

♥ Brenda Denise Fields Robinson
December 16, 1951 — August 17, 2006
Second Baptist Church-Mumford
“When Great Trees Fall” by Dr. Maya Angelou

When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down in tall grasses,
and even elephants lumber after safety.

When great trees fall in forests, small things recoll into silence,
their senses eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,
the air around us becomes light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes... see with a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines, gnaws on kind words unsaid,
promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls, dependent upon their nurture, now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed and informed by their radiance, fall away.
We are not so much maddened as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly.
Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be better.
For they existed.
Pastor Darryl Edward Carter, a fourth generation preacher, is the Senior Pastor and Founder of Joint Heirs Kingdom Ministries, Inc., which is located in Rochester, NY. Pastor Carter has served faithfully in ministry for over 15 years, and also has served the Lord faithfully as the Shepherd of Joint Heirs since April of 2009. Though called to be a Shepherd and to edify the Body of Christ, Pastor Carter also continues in his mandate to work aggressively outside the walls of the church and in the community as well. Pastor Carter has over 13 years of dedicated Prison Ministry experience, which has included faithful service done at the Attica and Orleans Correctional Facilities in the State of New York. He has had the privilege of working and ministering for many years in the Juvenile Justice System.

Pastor Carter has a deep love for God and for people; his assignment and heart's desire is to “Build & Empower People to live out their God Given Purpose.”

Avery Chubb Council began playing bass at a young age at church with the choir. Later he played with his Dad's gospel group "The Bright Clouds". Because of the work with the Bright Clouds, Avery has appeared on many recordings, both locally and nationally. He currently plays with Divine Nature, several choirs and as a solo artist!

Frederick Dicks began finding his musical talent as a little boy by beating on his parents’ furniture with pencils. His parents soon realized that in order to cultivate his talent and save their furniture they should buy him a drum set. At age eleven, Frederick began playing on this drum set every day and has not looked back since. He took classes at Hochstein School of Music when he first started playing drums. After becoming a professional drummer at a very young age, he began to explore other instruments such as bass guitar, alto sax, clarinet, piano and organ. This journey led him to accept several positions as Music Director and Minister of Music at many churches in the Rochester area. He has recorded and written original gospel pieces.

He is currently the Music Director at New Bethel CME Church and has begun a new journey into ministry. While he still has a passion for music he now attends Colgate Divinity School and has completed his first year in the M.Div. program.

Minister Shawonda S. Harris (Divine Destiny) is a native Rochesterian whose heart is unshakably rooted in faith. She is a woman who loves God, loves His Word, and loves His people. Minister Shawonda has a passion for youth--- to inspire, educate, equip & encourage them. She serves as the youth pastor at Grace United Methodist (GUMC) Church. She conducted a 4- week “Love and Forgiveness” workshop on Saturdays for area teens. Harris also has served as a liaison for the “Joshua Revolution” in Niagara Falls and, at GUMC, she directed the youth choir & introduced liturgical dance to the church body.

Min. Harris founded Divine Destiny Dance Ministry & has traveled to many different states to show God’s word through her liturgical dance & mime ministry. She danced for Vicki Winans & in The Harlem Globetrotters half- time show.

Ms. Harris believes that “Children will do & say anything until they are taught, instructed & trained in a better way”. Minister Harris’ passion & goal is to travel to Africa on a mission trip where she hopes to establish a home for the dislocated youth.

Kevin McDonald, J.D. / PhD is Rochester Institute of Technology’s vice president and associate provost for diversity and inclusion since 2010.

McDonald has held positions at several other universities including Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to his work in higher education, McDonald worked for the U.S. Department of Justice and for Network Solutions, Inc.

McDonald holds a law degree from The Ohio State University and a doctoral degree in higher education leadership from the University of Rochester. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

McDonald has been involved in music ministry since his teenage years and has been fortunate enough to have shared the stage with some of gospel music’s most notable artists including Kirk Franklin & Fred Hammond. McDonald has allowed the Lord to use him to share the good news to all who lend an ear.

Kayla McDonald is an eighth grader at Twelve Corners Middle School. Kayla has loved music since her elementary school days. She plays both piano and clarinet, but has only been singing for only a year and a half.
A Marvelous Thing
AKOMA’s 19th Annual Scholarship Concert Programme

1st Timothy 2:5-6  ... "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

♥ ♥ ♥ Praise, Prayer, Preparation ♥ ♥ ♥

Director of Ceremonies
Dr. Arlette Miller Smith

Anthem of Praise
Soloists: Sylvia Walker; Barbara Johnson
Conductor: Colette Hardaway

Featuring Liturgical Dance Company Divine Destiny & Minister Shawonda Harris

Opening Prayer
Pastor Carl Wager, Bethel Christian Fellowship

Welcome
Dr. Arlette Miller Smith

♥ ♥ ♥ Part I ♥ ♥ ♥

Selections
- “The Blood Still has Miraculous Power” Soloist: Carmen Allen
  Conductor: Kathy Damann
- “Ain’t He Good” Conductor: Gloria Brooks
- “MARVELOUS” Theme Song Soloist: Arneska Harvey
  Conductor: Colette Hardaway
- Fellowship Medley Soloist: Esther Pinkston
  Conductor: Colette Hardaway
- “I Can Only Imagine” Sacred Dance: Minister Shawonda Harris

♥ ♥ ♥ Nona Patterson Scholarship Recognition ♥ ♥ ♥

Scholarship Presentations
- “Released”
  Narration: Esther Pinkston
  Conductor: Colette Hardaway

Sign Interpretation: Evelyn Greenwade-Boltwood

GLORIA ANN BROOKS, Executive Music Director

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GLORIA ANN BROOKS, AKOMA’s third executive music director, is first and foremost, a woman of God. Brooks considers her musical expertise & passion to be a ministry that is her primary mission in life --- that is, healing the sick, delivering the captives and encouraging the saints.

Brooks is a native of Florida. She completed a Master’s Degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. After completing the teacher certification program, Brooks was hired by the Rochester City School District as a full – time music teacher.

Brooks also has served as both a musician and a choir director at Immaculate Conception Church, where she currently serves as the Music Director. She is a faithful member, musician and evangelist at Joint Heirs Kingdom Ministries where she was ordained by Pastor Darryl Carter.

Brooks gives God all the glory for her many accomplishments and believes He will continue to do even greater things in and through her life.
Scholarship Offering

Rita Mitchell: Scholarship Commission Chair
Dr. Arlette Miller Smith: Founder/Artistic Director

Offering Music

Offering Prayer

Guests Selections
- “Take Me to the King”
- “I’m Still Here”

Soloists: Kevin & Kayla McDonald
Soloist: Dr. Kevin McDonald

Part II

The Worship Medley
Soloist: Barbara Johnson
Conductor: Kathy Damann

“Get Your Blessing”
Soloist: Patricia Starks I
Conductor: Colette Hardaway

“Second Chance”
Soloist: Patricia Starks II
Conductor: Kathy Damann

Special Prayer/Benediction

Pastor Darryl Carter,
Joint Heirs Kingdom Ministries

“Amen” Closing Song
Soloists: Sylvia Walker;
Barbara Johnson
Conductor: Colette Hardaway

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Brooks gives God all the glory for her many accomplishments and believes He will continue to do even greater things in and through her life. The following excerpt is from her favorite scripture Romans 4:17 “…. [God] calleth those things which [are] not as though they were.”
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.

2013-2014 AKOMA Scholarship Commission

Rita Mitchell - Chairperson

Musette Castle
Ruth Anderson
Yvonne Lewis-McDonald
Rose Stokes
Patricia Floyd

Myrtle Day
Wynndy Turner
Colette Hardaway
Gloria McCullough
Emma Cheri Miller

Esther Pinkston

Ministry Through Music: An AKOMA Chronology

2014  A Marvelous Thing  1st Timothy 2:5-6
2013  He’s Worthy  Psalms 113:3
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
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  Psalm 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
Lyric Calvin

Lyric Calvin is the daughter of Mathis and Stacy Calvin. She will graduate this June as a Black Scholar from Fairport High School with an Advanced Regents Degree. Her school activities include Asset Leadership, the Chemical Prevention Advisory Council, peer ambassador, and Career Club.

Lyric’s church home is Pentecostal Miracle Deliverance Center where she participates in the Inspirational Dance Group and Youth Group, serves as the audio visual assistant and is a preschool teacher.

She will attend Sienna College in Albany and plans to major in Biology. Her future plans include Medical School with a goal of becoming an Obstetrician helping to improve the infant mortality rate in under-served countries.

Cheyanne Jeffrey

Cheyanne Jeffrey’s parents are Sherley and Michael Jeffrey. This June she will graduate from Rochester Early College International High School with an Advanced Regents Diploma having already completed a number of college courses. Her achievements include Urban League Black Scholar, Do the Right Thing Award and Hillside Work Scholarship Connection.

Her future plans include attending St. Lawrence College in Cornwall, Ontario Canada to major in Biotechnology.

An active member of Jefferson Avenue Seventh Day Adventist Church, Cheyanne has served as an audiovisual assistant, a youth counselor with the vacation Bible School, an assistant in the Sabbath School as well as various roles in the Pathfinder Drum Corps. Her community services activities include the Monroe County Youth Bureau, Rehema Home and the American Red Cross.

Phoebe Conley

Phoebe Conley’s parents are Paul and Ethel Conley. She is a senior at Our Lady of Mercy High School and will graduate as a Black Scholar having taken a number of Advanced Placement Courses. Some of her extracurricular activities include participation on the tennis and soccer teams, the school orchestra, school newspaper and the Passport to Understanding Program. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is a Wegman Scholarship Program Scholar.

She attends Our Lady of America where she has served as an altar server and lector. Phoebe also assists with Vacation Bible School activities and at the church’s food cupboard.

Her future plans include attending Cornell University and majoring in Bio-Chemistry with a goal of becoming a genetic researcher.

Imani Hunter

Imani Hunter is the daughter of James Hunter and Cantina El-amin. She will graduate from Gates Chili High School with an Advanced Regents Diploma. Her activities include the School Spanish Club, membership in a Gospel Choir and volunteer work at Ronald McDonald House, Foodlink and the T.H.R.I.V. E. program.

She is an active member of Bethany Spiritual Church of God where she serves on the Praise and Worship Team.

Her goals are to attend SUNY Albany and then become a Physician’s Assistant.

Kristina Williams

Kristina Williams’ parents are Joel and Donita Cummings. A senior at Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School she has successfully completed Honors and Advanced Placement classes as well as induction into the National Honor Society. She will attend George Mason University and major in Psychology with the goal of achieving a doctoral degree. Her school activities include track and field, the step team and the Health and Fitness Club.

Kristina is a member of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. She is involved in the youth group, dance team, step team and the audio-visual ministry.

Sydney Kirven

Sydney Kirven is the daughter of Bobby and Kathy Kirven. A senior at Penfield High School, she will attend Xavier University and begin Pre- Medical studies. On the honor roll throughout her high school years, she has been recognized as a Black Scholar. Her school activities have included track & field, Students Against Destructive Decisions, the step team and the Black History Month committee. She has participated in community activities through Ronald McDonald House, Wilson Commencement Park and Jack & Jill of America.

New Bethel CME Church is Sydney’s church home where she serves as President of the Mattie E. Coleman Circle, a youth usher and Christian Youth Fellowship member.

The 2014 recipients have been awarded scholarships by the AKOMA Scholarship Committee based on their grade point averages; written essay; school, church and community activities; letters of reference and personal interviews. The recipients’ biographical information provided by Commissioner Ruth Anderson.
## Past AKOMA Scholarship Recipients

### 2013
- Sidnee McDonald
- Gabrielle Reid
- Niallah Owens
- Jordanae Smith
- Sable Stewart

### 2012
- Fallon Brooks
- Kaila Knight
- Jasmine Williams
- Tiara Jackson
- Camaria Long

### 2011
- CleAnn Davis
- Amonee Read
- Moiet James
- Shanice Taylor
- Dionna Warfield

### 2010
- Tiffany Bakou
- Renada Bertram
- Donielle Kelly
- Roberta Barnes
- Dominique Donadelle
- Maya Smith
- Chantelle White

### 2009
- Meghan Cornwall
- Isis Mounts
- Brittnay Johnson
- Denesha Samuda
- Jocelyn Williams

### 2008
- Michelle Fletcher
- Angela Ketterer
- Courtney Green
- Eboni Robinson
- Tara McCracken

### 2007
- Brittney Hills
- Danielle Richardson
- Sherrita Wilkins

### 2006
- Porsha Coaxm
- Katrina Griffith
- Alyshia Thomas

### 2005
- Ashley Brass
- Tiffany Ellis
- Angelica Davis

### 2004
- Krystal Crawford
- Desiree Israel
- Leslie Pierre-Philippe

### 2003
- Kierstyn Blair
- Kari McCree
- Lauryn Minter

### 2002
- 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
- Peta-Gae Andrade
- Shemeka Davis
- LaTia Dukes
- Takara Gray
- Aja Houston
- Brandi Howard
- Shakira Nelson
- Natasha Nichole Stevens
- Delora Nicole Turner
- Kirkshinta Turnipseed
- Uwem Udofa

### 2000
- Tyanisha Brown
- Margaret Neal Enis
- Lindsay Green
- Deidre Hill
- Brandy Rosier
- Sherell Scott
- Leah Thompson
- Re’shawna Turner
- Naomi Woffard

### 1999
- Johnique Ter’esa Billups
- Erica Michelle Bryant
- Kimberly Alecia Thurman
- Sonia Elizabeth Uter

### 1998
- La-Toya Dukes
- Katrina Louise Jones
- Tamisha N. Smith
- Melody Terese Williams

### 1997
- Tameka Avant
- Danielle Gaston
- Yuressa Hubbard
- Rashida Moore

### 1996
- April N. Anderson
- Donnye Graham
- Shalewa Hardaway
AKOMA's Support Team/Acknowledgements

Officers/Committee Chairs
Exec. Director/Founder - Dr. Arlette Miller Smith
Exec. Music Director & Music Committee Chair - Gloria Brooks
Co-Presidents - Ruth Anderson & Deseree Bliss
Vice President - Carmen Allen
Secretary - Regina Fowler
Co-Treasurers - Myrtle Day & Gloria Wilson
Attendance Clerk - Anita Simpson
Chaplain - Clara Warfield
Parliamentarian - Julia Lawson
Herstorian - Eunice White
Membership Comm. Co-Chairs - Carolyn Butts & Kathy Damann
Scholarship Comm. Chair - Rita Mitchell
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Anthem of Praise       Composer: Richard Smallwood
The Blood Still Has Miraculous Power Composer: Kurt Carr
Ain’t He Good Children  Composer: Damian D. Price
Marvelous              Composer: Bishop Walter Hawkins
Fellowship Medley       Composer: Anthony Tidwell/Charles Jenkins
Released               Composer: Donald Lawrence
The Worship Medley      Arranger: Joseph Pace II
Get Your Blessing       Composer: Percy Gray Jr./Chicago Mass Choir
Second Chance           Composer: Hezekiah Walker
Amen                   Composer: Kurt Carr
I Can Only Imagine      Arranger: Tamela Mann
Take me to the King     Composer: Kirk Franklin
I’m Still Here          Arranger: Dorinda Clark-Cole
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1st Timothy 2:5-6

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