LONDON BRIDGE IS FALLING DOWN

From the glitz and glamour of Hollywood; from the hallowed halls of Capitol Hill; from the sedate and staid boardrooms of corporations, the discipline and structure of professional athletics people, from the newsrooms of the media, mostly men and mostly white are shaking in their boots and sweating bullets fearing they will be the London Bridge to fall down. On some level its becoming entertainment. But regardless of why now, at this appointed time the scabs are being snatched off a nasty sore. What is real is that sexual abuse and sexual harassment are in no way new and are not relegated to any specific industry.

Sexual abuse, molestation, incest, predatory behavior, and sexual harassment are dirty little secrets that continue to destroy the fabric of our families and our communities. RAINN, (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), the nation’s largest anti-sexual violence organization, reports that every 98 seconds someone experiences some form of sexual assault. See RAINN statistics on sexual abuse experienced by women, men, boys and girls. https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence.

RAINN statistics come from the National Crime Victimization Survey which is conducted annually by the Justice Department, so RAINN statistics are limited by criminal reports. As such, I propose that every person has been affected by some form of sexual assault or sexual

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harassment. We know the dirty little secrets in our families that everyone knew but no one spoke about. We know what has happened in our families and by family friends, by coaches, teachers, professors, mentors, on dates and by clergy. Nasty little secrets that we’ve never spoken of. Sometimes others knew or suspected. Sometime it was never spoken of to anyone. We’ve observed and been affected by inappropriate behavior in the workplace and have been silenced by fear of retaliation. We are well aware of the ugly silence of sexual assault in the military. Some of us are victims. Some of us are perpetrators. It’s time, as Iyanla Vanzant so powerfully says to “call a thing a thing, people!”

#METOO

Ten years ago in 2007, Trana Burke created Just Be, Inc., a nonprofit organization to help young black and brown victims of sexual harassment and assault. As a victim of sexual assault herself, Ms. Burke named her movement ME TOO.

http://justbeinc.wixsite.com/justbeinc/home

Ten years later, Alyssa Milano added a hashtag and thousands of women are having the courage to say MeToo. Milano acknowledged Ms. Burke as the originator a few days after learning of her. Let’s start by having the courage to acknowledge how sexual abuse and harassment has affected our sense of self, our sense of others, our relationships with others, our emotions and our behavior. Let’s admit to ourselves what we’ve seen, what we’ve done, and begin to have courageous conversation with those who have been silent. Let’s stop the pattern of abuse in our families. Let’s begin to speak up and stand up against inappropriate behavior, inappropriate statements, and intimidation and support women, men and children who acknowledge being or having been violated in any way and who we know are being or have been violated. It’s up to us to stop the madness. Start by signing with me, #MeToo.
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#BlackMoneyMatters

NABSW’s commitment to enlarging individual and community wealth continues. I ask that during this holiday season, you are intentional in your spending to support Black businesses and to build your individual wealth in partnership with Black financial institutions. Nearly 7 in 10 Americans have less than $1000 in savings. Regardless of the amount you have, I am asking everyone to make a commitment to start a savings account with One United Bank, America’s largest Black bank. https://www.oneunited.com/. One United Bank is a bank that is socially conscious and gives back to the Black community. They support us. Let’s support them.

http://blog.blackbusiness.org/2016/07/web-sites-apps-help-find-black-owned-businesses.html#.Wg0thI9SzAU

http://affinitymagazine.us/2017/02/18/5-websites-and-apps-that-can-help-you-find-black-owned-businesses/


See previous newsletters for other apps that list Black businesses. (Around The Way, Where You At)

We’re Stronger Together,

Toni Oliver, President
NABSW
#MeToo
Spiritual Awakening
By H.M.K. Amen

In every season, there is a message from God.

Now is the season where there is less and less daylight; the hours of darkness are greater than the hours of light. Nature is reminding us that it is time to turn inward. Yet everywhere we look, we experience endless enticements to externalize. If we are in tune with nature, we will take advantage of this critical time to reflect on our lives and give thought to the changes that need to be made.

When we were introduced to the Code of Ethics of our beloved National Association of Black Social Workers, we had a vision for ourselves and our people. Where are we? Did we lose our way? If so, let us use this time to recommit to that greater vision that extends beyond the personal but assures the person will be taken care of, if we come together on the firm foundation of our ancient African principles, i.e. The 11 Laws of Maat: Peace (Amen), Unity (Ausar), Wisdom (Tehuti), Power (Sekhert), Interdependence (Maat), Justice (Heru Khuti), Free Will (Heru), Joy (Het Heru), Communication (Sebek), Devotion (Auset), Health (Geb).

Peace & Blessings!
CIC’s Vision of Inclusion:
Accept, Accommodate, and Advocate

National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) Communication and Information Committee (CIC) is responsible for disseminating information to members, chapters and the community via various mediums. CIC primarily manages NABSW’s social media and provides technological assistance to NABSW committees. Through this work, the committee has been attentive to the requests and needs of members and potential members. CIC received concerns regarding the ability of all members to fully participate in NABSW activities. Therefore, CIC was compelled to champion the issue of accessibility and inclusion of all members. This includes the ease of access at NABSW events as well as our website, office space, and online training opportunities among many other things.

NABSW was birthed out of the necessity to respond to inflections on the Black community and to address the exclusion of black social workers and black consumers of service in the field of social welfare.

_NABSW advocates for the inclusion of people of African ancestry at the decision and policy-making levels and continues to be a change agent in the areas of social work, education, practice, and research. Members of NABSW recognize the necessity for people of African ancestry to maintain control of our communities and accountability of self and others of African ancestry. Through its membership, NABSW seeks to link with others of African ancestry throughout the Diaspora._ (NABSW mission statement)

As we approach the 50th anniversary of NABW, we must reflect on these foundational values and our code of ethics to ensure that we are continuing to practice as our founders intended the day of the walk out in 1968. This reflection should include an assessment of current practices and their alignment with our commitment to accountability of people of African ancestry. In the spirit of our code of ethics, we are obliged to ensure inclusivity of all NABSW members and other of African ancestry regardless of age, ability, sexuality orientation, and religion. As an aging organization and organization in the digital age, we must educate and equip ourselves with the knowledge and tools to provide information, establish events, create materials, and spaces that are accessible to all members.

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This includes creating barrier-free environments for members and potential members so they can fully participate with NABSW and carry out the work of the organization. Barrier-free environments include accessibility of venues, accommodations for people with physical, auditory and visual (challenges?) disabilities, accessibility to materials through electronic and social media, etc. It is our ethical and moral duty to prioritize inclusion to assure ease of access to all members and potential members, with special attention to those with disabilities. We must conduct ourselves and our business in a way that accepts, accommodates, and advocates on behalf of our brothers and sisters who have disabilities. The code of ethics states, “I adopt the concept of a Black extended family and embrace all Black people as my brothers and sisters, making no distinction between their destiny and my own.”

Call to Action and Implications for Practice

CIC has researched ADA information and developed recommendations intended to enable social workers and organizations to become more sensitive to the needs of people with disabling conditions. Please view recommendations provided to conference workshop presenters last year. They will also be provided to presenters this year. These recommendations can also inform social work practice, in general, with people who have disabling conditions. In order to carry out this vision of inclusivity, CIC also offers the following as strategies to incorporate inclusion into action statements and practice: Making accessibility a priority throughout the organization.

- Make accessibility a priority from day one of event planning.
- View NABSW Event Accessibility recommendations.
- Include people with disabilities in the planning process for any events, content development or trainings.
- Invite individuals with disabilities to be featured speakers as an inclusive practice.
- Evaluate and listen to feedback of members and consumers of service in regard to the ease, or lack thereof of accessibility in your venues and respond accordingly to the best of your ability.

CIC intends to continue to advocate for accessibility and will model and support organizational efforts towards inclusion. To date, CIC has provided conference speakers with accessible presentation resources, developed resources for NABSW Event planning, and consulted with internal and external partners. CIC will model inclusive practices through upcoming webinars, CIC activities and products. We are confident that through collaboration and commitment NABSW members and our organization, in general, will increasingly become more sensitive and responsive to the need of people with disabilities become increasingly inclusion of all members and potential members in all aspects of our programs and services.

If you are interested in joining CIC contact us at cic@nabsw.org
We Honor Your Memory

*Wherever man goes to dwell his character goes with him.*  -African Proverb

NABSW sadly announces the transition of two members this quarter. Asante sana  Lorenzo Merritt and E.C. Bell for your commitment to the National Association of Black Social Workers. Your love for the organization will always be remembered and be near and dear to our hearts. We express our sincere condolences to their families and chapter members.

E.C. Bell (far left)

Lorenzo Tate
ABSW Houston Chapter Works to Help Hurricane Victims

The Disaster Preparedness and Trauma Response Task Force is working in conjunction with ABSW chapters and community organizations in response to the recent string of Hurricanes. We acknowledge the Houston Chapter and their coordination after Hurricane Harvey. Houston Chapter ABSW collaborated with Association of Black Psychologist to form Houston’s Collaborative Urban Resource Experts (CURE). CURE has hosted clothing and food events, offered case management services, assisted the community at large in applying for Federal disaster aid and begun the healing process with group counseling and healing circles.

Working with All Healers Mental Health Alliance keeps NASBW and the Disaster Prep and Trauma Response team up to date on concerns across many communities. Port Arthur, TX is a quaint community destroyed by Hurricane Harvey. Forgotten by most relief supports, AHMHA is working with area community activist Hilton Kelly to provide support to the community. Portions of the funds donated to NABSW Disaster Fund have been sent to assist with rebuilding this community. For further information on the progress in Port Arthur contact Youcaring.com/HurricaneHarveyPATX.

Hurricane Irma and Maria destroyed the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and southern Florida. The Task Force has been in contact with ABSW chapters in Florida, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. Due to the Hurricane Miami ABSW continues to work with the Task Force to identify needs within the Chapter and surrounding communities. Jacksonville ABSW reported some damage throughout the community, fortunately all members were safe. Through your contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund, relief is being provided to Shell/Sweet Senior Program located on the campus of Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, FL and the Hispanic Federation supporting Puerto Rico.

Thank you to each chapter and every individual who has donated to the Disaster Relief fund! We are proud that 100% of the donations are used to support ABSW membership and the communities they support. Your continued support is appreciated. Disaster Prep and Trauma Recovery is open to membership and we encourage anyone interested in collaborating with Disaster Relief organizations, local EMA’s and NABSW general membership to join. Monetary donations are processed through the Disaster Relief button on the NABSW website.
For the Love of Brothers & Sisters in RVA

The Richmond Association of the Black Social Workers are hard at work making a difference and impacting change in Richmond, Virginia and surrounding areas. They have established an advocating agenda and join with other local organizations in ensuring implementation and participation. They are preparing for the 2018 General Assembly. They recently had their first enstoolment of the elders. The elders were the founding members of the chapter and those who provided the foundation of this wonderful chapter. The Richmond Association of Black Social Workers are members of the Richmond Collective bringing an African Centered Approach and Awareness to the community and its members. We encourage and invite the community to join us as we continue to forge ahead with our people first as our commitment.

RABSW chapter members at Virginia Union University panel discussion (left to right: Lashawnda Singleton, Jackie Washington, Laurenia Mangum, Silka Steele, Dr. Renata Hedrington-Jones, and Olufemi Shepsu).

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RABSW chapter members at The Macro Brew in support of Bob Peay and his scholarship fund for VCU SWAPPP students (left to right: Dr. Renata Hedrington-Jones, Laurenia Mangum, Bob Peay, Tina Bowman, and Kevin Holder).

RABSW chapter members Ashley Waddell and Cortney Calista attended the Virginia Action Network's 2017 Gun Violence Prevention Recognition Ceremony on November 30th (pictured above is Ashley Waddell and Kayla Hicks).
The Enstoolment Ceremony for our chapter founders and pioneers on December 2nd, 2017. (pictured above from top left to right: Clinton Strane, James "Jim" Ryan, Aubrey Flippen, Francis “Frank” Nelson, John Purnell, and Robert "Bob" Peay) (pictured bottom left to right: Dr. Sandra Mitchell, Dr. Mabel Wells, Willie Dell, and Elmer Seay. Honoree not present: Dr. Norma Goode Posthumous honorees: Thomas Baynham, Ed Brown, Oliver Epps, and Hilda Warden

The Richmond ABSW members: past, present and future at the Enstoolment Ceremony (acknowledgments to Sister Yaa and Brother Olufemi for conducting the ceremony and the benevolence committee members for coordinating the event.)
41st International Education Conference
“Crusing in the Footsteps of our Ancestors - Looking Back to Go Forward”
CARIBBEAN/MEXICO CRUISE (on the MSC cruise line)

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, August 10, 2018 – Saturday, August 18, 2018

For more information, call the National Office at (202) 678-4570.
NABSW

50th Anniversary Celebration April 3rd-7th, 2018

Come out and be a part of History as NABSW celebrates our 50th Anniversary. Next year’s theme: “NABSW: Celebrating Our Legacy/Fulfilling the Dream”

Members of the 50th Anniversary and the National Conference Committees are putting together several days of events for conferees to enjoy as we witness an historical moment honoring the legacy of the National Association of Black Social Workers Inc. Conferees will have an opportunity to take a walk through history and have an opportunity to meet our founders who will educate us about that historical moment in time 50 years ago. There are several events and activities planned for the entire week in the beautiful city of San Diego:

**Tuesday:** Kick-start the Conference with the Community Day of Service in collaboration with Health & Wellness and OSA: Community Health Fair and Community Garden Project. Conferees will be able to fill their stomachs with great food, music, and fun, at the “Soul Picnic” following the Day of Service.

**Wednesday:** Meet & Greet-Conferees will sip & chat during a toast with a signature drink on the lawn of the hotel during sunset.

**Thursday:** Put on your formalwear for the 50th Celebration Gala- appetizers, cash bar, and music. There will be a guest appearance from a local celebrity.

**Friday:** National Conference Dance: “Do You Remember the Times?” Get into your favorite dance clothes and shoes cause we are going to party through the decades!

More details regarding Conference Activities will be posted on the website and in the Conference Registration Brochure. We are going to have a Blast!! You don’t want to miss it!!!

Yours Truly,

50th Anniversary Committee
NABSW Community Health Fair

Theme:
“Life-Long Health: Mind, Body, and Soul”

Please join the San Diego Chapter and your Comprehensive Health and Wellness Committee by participating in our Annual Community Health Fair.

Date: Tuesday April 3, 2018
Time: 10am – 2:00pm
Location: Bayview Baptist Church
Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium
6134 Pastor Timothy J. Winters Street
San Diego, CA

Several agencies and service providers will be providing health related information, as well as free screenings and testing for high blood pressure, diabetes, and depression along with interactive fitness activities such as yoga and line dancing, to get you moving!

“It’s all about committing to “Life-Long health” as we celebrate NABSW’s 50th!
Transportation will be provided from the Sheraton Hotel to the health fair location.

Please plan on joining us for one of our best health fair yet!

“The head and the body must serve each other” - WOLOF Folktale
Celebrating Our Legacy
Fulfilling the Dream

NABSW
50th Anniversary

San Diego, California
April 3 - 7, 2018
Happy Kwanzaa!

Season’s Greetings! May you carry every principle of Kwanzaa from this year into the next!