



"GUMBO" PRESS CONTACT

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BOOK FESTIVAL PRESS CONTACT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Through June 30, 2007

Education, Features, Lifestyles, Book Reviewers

Gumbo for the Soul" Creator Invited to Address Attendees At Los Angeles Leimert Park Village Book Festival Co-chaired by Hill Harper, Author and Co-star of "CSI NY" And Victoria Rowell, Author and Former "The Young & the Restless" Star

SAN JOSE, CA – JUNE 20, 2007 - Producers of the inaugural Leimert Park Village Book Festival invited Beverly Black Johnson, founder of "Gumbo for the Soul" Literacy Program and compiler of the acclaimed new anthology "Gumbo for the Soul: the Recipe for Literacy in the Black Community" to be a part of this summer's hottest literary event. Johnson will address several hundred writers, storytellers, poets, publishers, booksellers, literary vendors, spoken word artists, merchants and special invited guests during the day-long affair.

Hill Harper, accomplished film, television and stage actor, and holder of degrees from Brown University and Harvard Law School, is co-chair of the of the history-making event. Humbling real life lessons learned on the road to obtaining an Ivy League education, co-starring in CBS's "CSI NY" television series and beyond led the Sacramento native to pen his first book, "Letters to a Young Brother." Written as an inspirational guidebook packed with heartfelt wisdom, "Letters" offers solid, step-by-step life strategies.



Beverly Black Johnson
"Gumbo for the Soul"
Creator

Also co-chairing the event is Victoria Rowell, renown daytime actress and founder of The Rowell Foster Children's Positive Plan. Rowell recently published a new book titled "The Women Who Raised Me."

- WHO:** Beverly Black Johnson, founder of "Gumbo for the Soul" Literacy Program and compiler the "Gumbo for the Soul" anthology series
- WHAT:** Leimert Park Village Book Festival, titled "Celebrating Our Literary Legacy: Our Heritage, Our Words, Our Stories"
- WHEN:** Saturday, June 30, 2007 | 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
- WHERE:** Leimert Park Village Visions Theatre Parking Lot, Degnan Blvd. & 43rd St., Los Angeles, CA
- COST:** FREE and open to the public

- more -

Gumbo for the Soul: the Recipe for Literacy in the Black Community, compiled by Beverly Black Johnson (iUniverse, Inc./Gumbo for the Soul Publications, paperback, 308pp.,\$24.95) is the first in a series of compilations of delicious poetry, essays, quotes, and personal reflectional accounts of contributors' respective educational and occupational experiences that address adversity, obstacles, perseverance and determination, as well as assorted gumbo recipes.

Proceeds from the sale of the book benefit development of Johnson's San Jose, CA-based "Gumbo for the Soul" Literacy Program -- a 501(c)(4) public service initiative. The anthology is available online at www.BarnesandNoble.com

PRAISE FOR "GUMBO FOR THE SOUL" ANTHOLOGY:

"Gumbo for the Soul" dares to call it like it is. This serving of Gumbo is a must-read for every parent, teacher, mentor, and all who believe it is important that our children can read and comprehend the English language."

-- **Tavis Smiley**, Author, Television and Radio Host

"Gumbo for the Soul" tells African-Americans exactly what the recipe for a good life is ... It is inspirational, uplifting, and recommended for people of all ages, colors and aspirations."

-- **Alice Holman**, The RAWSISTAZ Reviewers

"GUMBO FOR THE SOUL" LITERARY CONTRIBUTORS (partial listing):

Heather Covington, NAACP Image Award nominee; author of *Literary Divas*; host, the former Black Family Channel's "Literary Living"

Nathasha Brooks-Harris, Emma Award winning author of *Panache*

Delores Thornton, "Queen of Marketing" Marguerite Publishing

Niambi Jarvis, founder & CEO, Hiyaah Power, Inc.

James W. Lewis, contributor, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

Kim Robinson, author of *The Roux in the Gumbo*

Synthia Saint James, award-winning artist, author, songwriter, and designer of the widely popular Kwanzaa postage stamp

Vecepia Towery-Robinson, CBS "Survivor" winner

Beverly Black Johnson, founder, "Gumbo for the Soul" Literacy Program; compiler, "Gumbo for the Soul" anthology series

THE LITERACY PROGRAM:

Proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit development of "Gumbo for the Soul" Literacy Program - a 501(c)(4) public service initiative. To learn more about the program, and how you can support it, please visit www.gumboforthesoul.net. Corporate and organizational sponsorships are welcome; call 209-947-4743 or email gumboforthesoul@yahoo.com.

THE BOOK FESTIVAL:

The first Leimert Park Book Festival will honor the memory of best-selling novelist, journalist and activist, Bebe Moore Campbell, who passed on in November 2006 at age 56 years. The festival is hosted by Eso Won Books. Leimert Park Book Festival sponsors include Washington Mutual, Starbucks, KABC-7, Time Warner Cable, the United States Postal Service, Nestles and Broadway Federal Bank.

For more information about the Leimert Park Book Festival, contact Cynthia E. Exum at 323-838-7997 / info@leimertparkbookfair.com, or visit www.leimertparkbookfair.com.