



PRESS CONTACT

Toni Beckham

408.499.3664

Toni@PRetCetera.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

Education, Features, Book Reviewers

**NIKKI GIOVANNI PENS FOREWORD FOR
“GUMBO FOR THE SOUL” ANTHOLOGY #3
“Gumbo for the Soul: Celebrity Moms”**

***A Call for Submissions from Celebrity Moms:** Third in the "Gumbo for the Soul" anthology series is "Gumbo for the Soul: Celebrity Moms." The book, for which Nikki Giovanni will write the foreword, is a special tribute to all mothers, and will consist of literary contributions from mothers of celebrities and moms who are celebrities in their own right. "Celebrity Moms" will be a compilation of poetry, essays, quotes, and personal reflections imparting wisdom, love, courage and life experiences.*

SAN JOSE, CA: Gumbo for the Soul Publications today announced that Nikki Giovanni—world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator—will pen the foreword for the third offering in the "Gumbo for the Soul" anthology series: *Gumbo for the Soul: Celebrity Moms*. The new book, which is planned for publication in time for Mother's Day 2008, will be a special tribute to all mothers, consisting of literary contributions from mothers of celebrities and moms who are celebrities in their own right.



Nikki Giovanni

Poet, writer, commentator,
activist, and educator

Enthused about her involvement with the *Gumbo for the Soul: Celebrity Moms* anthology, Giovanni commented poetically on the book's special tribute to mothers in observance of Mother's Day.

"Every mother is a celebrity; every mother a star. Yet with the constant spotlight upon her, it can make this joyful occasion more difficult. A lot of great mothers have reared their children in the public eye. This one not grandmothering though mothers can be and are grand, but rather great mothers. Celebrate them here with us."

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Gumbo for the Soul Publications recently announced that award-winning artist, author, songwriter, and Kwanzaa postage stamp designer **Synthia SAINT JAMES** is official book cover artist for the "Gumbo for the Soul" anthology series; **Bruce George**, talented poet and writer, entrepreneur, activist, Def Poetry Jam co-founder, and Peabody Award winner signed on with Gumbo for the Soul Publications as Director of Business Development; **Tee C. Royal**, literary agent and founder of R.A.W. SISTAZ (Reading and Writing SISTAZ) Literary Group will pen the foreword for the second offering in the "Gumbo for the Soul" anthology series "*Here's Our Child, Where's the Village?;*" and **Sheron 'Umi' Smith**, renown motivational speaker, spoken word poet, co-chair of the 2007 National Association of Black Female Executives in Music and Entertainment, Inc. International Women's Leadership Summit, and mother of rapper/actor Mos Def has taken on the role of lead compiler for Anthology #3 "*Gumbo for the Soul: Celebrity Moms*" for which Giovanni will pen the foreword.

Author, television and radio host Tavis Smiley's endorsement of the first in the anthology series *Gumbo for the Soul: The Recipe for Literacy in the Black Community* appears on the book's back jacket cover. The book's inspiration properties make it quite suitable and highly recommended for youth. It is available online now at www.BarnesandNoble.com.

ABOUT YOLANDA CORNELIA "NIKKI" GIOVANNI:

Nikki Giovanni is a world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator. Over the past thirty years, her outspokenness, in her writing and in lectures, has brought the eyes of the world upon her. One of the most widely-read American poets, she prides herself on being "a Black American, a daughter, a mother, a professor of English." Giovanni remains as determined and committed as ever to the fight for civil rights and equality. Always insisting on presenting the truth as she sees it, she has maintained a prominent place as a strong voice of the Black community. Her focus is on the individual, specifically, on the power one has to make a difference in oneself, and thus, in the lives of others.

Giovanni was born in Knoxville, Tennessee and grew up in Lincoln Heights, an all-black suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio. She graduated with honors from Fisk University, her grandfather's alma mater, in 1968. After graduating from Fisk, she attended the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. She published her first book of poetry, "Black Feeling Black Talk," in 1968, and within the next year published a second book, thus launching her career as a writer.

Early in her career Giovanni was dubbed the "Princess of Black Poetry," and over the course of more than three decades of publishing and lecturing she has come to be called both a "National Treasure" and, most recently, one of Oprah Winfrey's twenty-five "Living Legends."

The author of some 30 books for both adults and children, Giovanni is a University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. She is the recipient of more than 20 honorary Doctorate Degrees, and has been bestowed over 100 awards and honors.

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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PUBLISHER SOUGHT:

Future *Gumbo for the Soul* anthologies are open to publishing house proposals. If interested in bringing the exceptional works to fruition, and sharing in their respective success, call 209-947-4743 or email GumboForTheSoul@yahoo.com.

THE LITERACY PROGRAM:

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the anthologies will support the "Gumbo for the Soul" Literacy Program, a 501(c)(4) public service initiative developed by mother and child advocate Beverly Black Johnson, and other humanitarian efforts. To learn more about the literacy, and other supported causes, please visit www.gumboforthesoul.net. Corporate and organizational sponsorships are welcome; call 209-947-4743 or email GumboForTheSoul@yahoo.com.

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