

The Reader's Corner

By Monica Riley Verley
Sentinel-Voice

March is International Women's History Month... and we have much to celebrate and be grateful for as we face these uncertain times. We women are the nurturing souls and nucleus of the family. Let us not forget to give our love, freely, and sing our praises, loudly, to our mothers, our grandmothers, our aunts, our sisters and our daughters. And, sisters, we must not forget to support our Kings, the men in our lives who love us and support us unconditionally.

I look to the Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie this month for words of inspiration and spiritual guidance. Her book, "Journey to the Well," is her third, which includes "Not Without A Struggle," and "Strength In The Struggle."

In "Journey To The Well," (Viking Compass) the Bishop Vashti McKenzie, uses the biblical story of the meeting at the well between the Samaritan woman and Jesus to bring to light the path to the personal transformation we can all achieve if we hold on to hope and learn to listen to our inner voices. The story of the Samaritan woman reveals that personal transformation takes place when individuals are willing to spend time with God, investing self, time, energy and personal reflection in the process of calling up and meditating on past events to move beyond limiting barriers.

We, as women, encompass many different aspects. The women inside of us make up our own unique "collage." Within our personal "collage" is a chapter in the story of our lives, and each of these individual aspects contributes to the whole. Each represents a significant stage, moment or development in our lives, but the entire picture is not revealed until we can step back and view the collage as a whole. The journey to the well is a journey of faith. The woman of Samaria is every woman who has ever hoped that someday things would change. Bishop McKenzie shares her vision for personal growth with every woman who is not afraid to take the first step.

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie serves as the 117th elected and consecrated Bishop of the AME Church. Her historic election on July 11, 2000, represents the first time in the 214-year history of the church that a woman has obtained the level of Episcopal office. Bishop McKenzie holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Howard University School of Divinity. She earned her Doctor of ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary. Bishop McKenzie is the wife of Stan McKenzie (former NBA star) and is the mother of three children.

Monica Riley Verley holds a BA in English and Africana Studies from Vassar College and a Masters Degree in Journalism from Northwestern University. She is currently Executive Director of Programming and Promotions for Eastern Region PBS.

BET takes probing view on possible war

NEW YORK (AP) - Borrowing its theme from Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On," BET is planning coverage of a potential war with Iraq that poses questions about whether military action is necessary.

The cable channel aimed at blacks is reporting on the war buildup on its daily program, "BET Nightly News," and will likely pre-empt its regular schedule for more coverage if war breaks out.

Lee Gash-Maxey, BET's news vice president, said Black Entertainment Television's theme for war news is "Iraq: Is War the Answer?" That's an allusion to Gaye's Vietnam era song, which includes the lyrics "war is not the answer, for only love can conquer hate."

"In terms of the African-American community, one of the things we keep hearing over and over is that we're going to pay a higher price for war," Gash-Maxey said.

She said there are concerns about the large number of blacks in military service and possible economic problems that could come

with a war.

BET plans to spend a significant amount of time with blacks who have family members fighting, she said.

Although BET will convene panels of black retired military officers to talk about what's going on, it wants to make sure it gets plenty of nonmilitary voices on the air, she said.

"I'm from the Vietnam War era, where ... everyone just questioned everything," Gash-Maxey said. "It's a different day and time. We've raised a generation that's now not asking the questions: What is that saying? Didn't we tell them what the Vietnam War was like? Didn't we tell them what was going on in the neighborhoods while the protesting was going on?"

Although its polls over the past few months have shown Americans backing military action in Iraq to end Saddam Hussein's reign by more than 2-to-1, the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press said support fades

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Fashion show set to be 'Spectacular'

45th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair touted as best in event history

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

The 45th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair, set for March 30, promises a nonpareil fashion experience at the Texas Station; 2101 Texas Star Ln, Sunday, March 30, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. promises to raise the fashion bar for the chic conscience. Catwalks such as New York, Milan, Paris and London have been graced with the extravagant flamboyant fashions of world famous designers that are now coming to Las Vegas.

"Oh my God...so many beautiful clothes and the women are outstanding," publicity chair Carlean LeFear says of this year's show. "It's a beautiful thing to see and is for the whole family. We have as many men there as we do women."

The Ebony Fashion Fair showcase began in 1956 when Mrs. Jessie Dent approached John H. Johnson, publisher of Johnson Publishing Co., about putting on a mini-fashion show for her ladies auxiliary in New Orleans. Johnson discussed it with his wife Eunice W. Johnson, who currently directs and produces the show, what was to be a limited engagement stretched out to be 10 shows in 1958.

Today, eleven beautiful women, two gorgeous men and one fabulous full-figured model tour more than 179 cities to entertain no less than a quarter of a million viewers each year.

"We like for people to know that beautiful people come in all sizes," LeFear



Bob Mackie's beaded jacket with full-cut dolman sleeves and plush white fur cuffs with strapless camisole and beaded pants recaptures old-style Hollywood fashion and glamour.

said of the many models in the show. "My favorite part is the swimwear and sports."

"Simply Spectacular" is this year's theme with a lunch and a 1-yr. subscription to Ebony or a six-month subscription to Jet accompanying the 50 dollar per-person-ticket price.

Sponsored by Gamma Phi Delta, Alpha Rho Chapter, noted as the first Greek organization in Las Vegas was established in 1963 with 14 members. Today that number is up to 16 and the sorority donates some of the proceeds of the event to EOB (Economic Opportunity Board).

Since 1958, the fashion fair has become a fundraiser for national and international charity organizations with funds exceeding more than 48 million dollars from its attendees. For more information call 648-4800.

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MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE



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