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## Shrine of the Black Madonna

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**57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Shrine of the Black Madonna**

**Dr. Woodrow Smith, Jr.  
National Community Service Award**

**Recognitions**

Sunday, October 31, 2010

Houston, TX

Risk-taking mission and service is one of the PAOCC's Five Cardinal Resolutions, and is a critical part of your faith journey toward becoming you Best Self. "Service is the highest praise," then, is not simply a nice catch phrase but a proven spiritual reality. We are all made better through higher service—individually and collectively. It was adherence to the Service Christianity as taught and practiced by Jesus that led our beloved founder, Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman, to give birth to our church. It is obedience to this same Service Christianity that empowers our Holy Patriarch, Jaramogi Menelik Kimathi, to lead us into a bold, dynamic and self-determining future. As well, it is submission to this divine call of service that undergirds the great works of our Dr. Woodrow Smith Jr. National Service Award winners. Your submission to this divine call can undergird your great works to come as well and lead you to become your Best Self.

*“The son of man came not  
to be served but to serve.”  
Mark 10:34*



**SIS. JAHA KADIRIFU (MRS. DONNA KADIRIFU)**

Sis. Jaha (Donna) Kadirifu is known throughout the Greater Houston area for her work as Recreation Facility Manager of the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center. There, Sis. Jaha develops, implements and evaluates all recreational programs, and recruits volunteers, assists the Division

Manager in the supervision of the entire region and provides a high level of customer service to all who enter the doors of Judson Robinson.

It is in her administration of customer service where Sis. Jaha is legendary for going above and beyond the call of duty. There are few, if any children in HISD's pre-K, elementary and middle schools who have not been positively and profoundly impacted by the work of Sis. Jaha. She oversees sports leagues, free karate lessons, YMCA summer camps, and the extremely impactful Judson Robinson After School Program offering students tutoring, mentors and positive activities.

As an ever-busy change agent Sis. Jaha started the Healthy Kids Program in collaboration with Texas Children's Hospital and the Baylor Research Center; served as a board member for Athletes Seeking Knowledge Scholarship program; and instituted the Personal Responsibility in Daily Effort Awards. In addition, Sis. Jaha has led her Community Center to be recognized for having one of the best Park Advisory Councils in Houston, winning numerous Keep Houston Beautiful Awards. Her leadership and heart for service has earned Sis. Jaha a Certificate of Appreciation for facilitating management training and a Frontline Award.

Though Sis. Jaha has earned icon status for her work at Judson Robinson, to many she is known as Houston's greatest Kwanzaa advocate, serving proudly on the Greater Houston Kwanzaa Committee for close to a decade. Her efforts with the Greater Houston Kwanzaa Committee have given the city one of the most respected Kwanzaa celebrations in the country. This is no small feat when you consider that Sis. Jaha is responsible for coordinating seven days and nights of Kwanzaa activities with numerous community organizations, schools, churches, youth groups, vendors, artists, and community stakeholders. Yet, she has been able to pull it off successfully year after year, growing the event annually into a valued Houston tradition.

And if that weren't enough, Sis. Jaha is passionate about raising awareness to the issue of Breast Cancer, and organizes groups to walk in and donate to Houston's annual Breast cancer Walk. Moreover, Sis. Jaha lends her time and energy to local Feed the Hungry efforts.

Yet, to the rare church member who may not know of Sis. Jaha's city-wide exploits as a community servant on multiple fronts, she is still considered a community servant par excellence for her work as the church's Youth Coordinator. Over the years, Sis. Jaha has been counted on to organize and coordinate such youth activities including Bible Class, Easter activities, Halloween festivities, Advent / Christmas Season parties and youth service opportunities, field trips, mentor sessions, group meetings, and so much more. And with every moment she spends with youth Sis. Jaha advocates for the educational excellence she continues to seek for herself, earning continuing education certificates and credits in the following subjects: Asia Society of Texas Afterschool Global Learning, Personal Records Specialist, Administration Supervisor, Computer/ Machine Operator, Primary Leadership Development, and Basic NCO.



**LT. TEKETEKE (MS. TERRI DICKERSON)**

In September Lt. Teketeke celebrated 20 years of Christian service as a member of the PAOCC. During the past 20 years she has faithfully served in many capacities. Lt. Teketeke has

worked with the Alkebu-Lan Nursery under the direction of Bishop Binta Chui and taught at the Alkebu-Lan Home School. In addition, Lt. Teketeke had a brief stint in the choir and coordinated the Missionary Outreach program, for the Southwest Region. In 1998 she was drafted into the Holy Order of the Maccabees, and as a Maccabee she did a tour of duty to the Southern Region (Shrine #9, Atlanta, GA) and participated in "the experience of a lifetime," Mount Ephraim Project at Beulah Land. Lt. Teketeke was also a proud member of the **Sisters in the Struggle of the PAOCC**, Cultural Center staff and long-time Black Slate volunteer.

Lt. Teketeke joined the Shrine Christian Center's Health Ministry early on and in 2000 she was assigned Health Ministry Coordinator. Shortly afterwards, Lt. Teketeke received her Master of Science Degree in Health Education from Texas Southern University. Since then she has worked at building collaborations with medical, health and wellness institutions and community-based groups such as the City of Houston's Urban Aids Ministry, the Balm in Gilead, St. Hope, the Warren Corporation, the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, and Sisters Network Inc., to name a few. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina Lt. Teketeke worked diligently to recruit a multi-disciplinary team of health care professionals and coordinate health services for Hurricane Katrina survivors.

Ever the education advocate, Lt. Teketeke has remained as committed to education as a lifelong pursuit as a vehicle for being an even more effective community servant. She received certification from the International Parish Nurse Resources Center and the Deaconess Nurse Ministries for Parish/Congregational Nurses from Houston Baptist University. She also attended the Interdenominational Theological Center's Health Education and Leadership Project for the National Faith Leaders Training Institute, and earned additional certification from the Rice University Volunteer Management Academy.

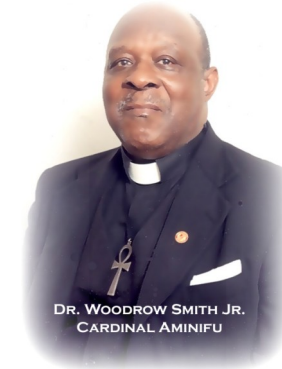
Lt. Teketeke wears many hats. Along with being a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), Training Program Coordination for Coastal Area Health Education Center, and an adjunct faculty member for College of the Mainland. Lt. Teketeke received her BS from Wayne State University in Detroit, her home town, and her training and education in nursing from the U.S. Army. A recipient of the Scaife Family Foundation Medical Track Scholarship for the National Rural Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse at the University of Wisconsin, Lt. Teketeke was also awarded the Bridging Faith and Health: The Roll of the Church Scholarship at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. She has most recently served on the planning committees for the Fight Against Childhood Obesity Conference, Cancer Tools for Texans Conference, and the CHW Summit and Annual Conference. Presently, Lt. Teketeke serves on the Interreligious Faith.

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## The Shrine of the Black Madonna

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### Dr. Woodrow Smith, Jr. National Community Service Award



Cardinal Aminifu Waganga (Dr. Woodrow Smith Jr.) served the Nation in ways too numerous to count, and with a depth of care, excellence, and impact that has been unsurpassed in the annals of our church's 57 year history. In every region in which he served Cardinal Aminifu became nothing short of a legend for the positive and lasting impact he left upon the people with whom he interacted. So great and so long and so consistent and so dedicated was Cardinal Aminifu's service that it is only fitting that the National Service Award given out by the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church be named in his honor.

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The tangible expression of an individual's Christian faith can be measured by the difference one makes in the world with their life. This sentiment was expressed by Martin Luther King when he said, "Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy." As a fellowship laboring to make our church a force for good in the world, we in the Shrine of the Black Madonna believe service is the highest praise. Rooted in the belief in the equality of souls, we are dedicated to creating a world where the divine value of all human beings is accepted, respected and protected. While all our members are urged to be involved in community service, there are some who by their exemplary service have distinguished themselves and profoundly enhanced our ministry. Therefore, these shining example of service and have been selected for recognition and appreciation during our Anniversary Month as a celebration of our mission and tradition. Recipients of this award exemplify the words of our founder and first Holy Patriarch, Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman, "Everything I have done with my life, I did because I was a Christian."

## 2010 National Service Award Recipients

### Central Region

The Holy Order of the Essenes  
Sis. Nireti  
Bro. Kojo (Anthony) Darden  
Mw. Diallo (William Brown)  
Mama Hanifa

### Southern Region

Bis. Maia Dakari (Velma Fann)  
Bro. Kariuki Uweso (Melvyn R. Burrow)

### Southwest Region

Bis. Hawanya (Hellena Stokes)  
Lt. Teketeke (Terri Dickerson)  
Sis. Jaha (Donna Kadirifu)

## 2009 National Service Award Recipients

### Central Region

Cardinal Mbiyu William Moore  
Cardinal Rashida Mary Blackmon  
Cardinal Talibah Cynthia Stephens  
Cardinal Karamo Ronald Hewitt  
Imani Melanie Roby  
Hon. Makunda Barbara Rose Collins  
Tene Sandra Ramsey  
Bishop Kehinde Briggs

### Southern Region

Bro. Jerry Tacuma Brown

### Southwest Region

Ada Edwards  
Mw. Onyemachi Perry  
Roy Perry



### BISHOP HAWANYA (MRS. HELLENA STOKES)

Born in Mobile, Alabama and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Bishop Hawanya (Mrs. Hellena Olivia Stokes) holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communications from Clark-Atlanta University and a Masters of Library and Information Science Degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She was the recipient of a graduate fellowship from the University of Texas at Austin and the Friends of the Houston Public Library.

As Manager/Librarian IV for the Houston Public Library's (HPL) African American Library at the Gregory School, Bis. Hawanya was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the establishment of this archival library housed in the building that served as the first public school for African Americans in Houston, and located in Houston's historic Freedmen's Town.

Formerly, Bis. Hawanya served as a Program Manager for HPL, where she coordinated system-wide adult and family programs, including The Books on the Bayou: Houston Reads Together program, "An Evening With..." author series, special heritage celebrations, and cultural events. Having been with Houston Public Library for over 18 years, Bis. Hawanya has served on various committees and held several leadership and management positions in library branches throughout the city and in national professional organizations such as the Association of African American Museums, the American Library Association and the Texas Library Association (TLA). She helped form the first Black Caucus group of the Texas Library Association and is a former Chair of the TLA Black Caucus and a graduate of Texas Library Association's TALL TEXANS Leadership Development Institute.

Bis. Hawanya has made tangible community contributions in numerous ways, including successfully getting 4<sup>th</sup> Ward area ministers and their congregations to support the building of the African American Library at the Gregory School; assisting with former Houston Mayor Bill White's Oral History Program to ensure the rich history and cultural of African Americans is documented for the benefit of generations to come; and creating and executing the Neighborhood Scanning Project, another effort aimed at preserving our vast history and culture.

However, long before building a stellar career of community service through her passion for library science Bis. Hawanya impacted communities all across the country as a teen missionary for the PAOCC, serving as a member of Atlanta College Cadre (1974-78), corporal in the Holy Order of the Maccabees, Nursery Coordinator, MOR Coordinator, member of the Holy Order of Nzinga and ordained member of the Ministerial Cadre. Bis. Hawanya was also the long-time manager of the Shrine of the Black Madonna Cultural Center & Bookstores in Atlanta and Houston, and held the distinction of being the youngest group leader at age 16 at the Shrine on Detroit's East Side. Moreover, Bis. Hawanya started an Austin, Texas cadre (20 members) while in graduate school at University of Texas.

Because of her strong leadership skills and her passion for community outreach, Bis. Hawanya was awarded a Sigma Gamma Rho Community Leadership Award in 2007, the same year she was named director of the African American Library at the Gregory School. Bis. Hawanya and her husband, Major Bambaata (Deputy Kenneth Stokes) have been married for 31 years and have two children: Faida, currently attending Tennessee State University for a second master's degree in Special Education, and Imarogbe, a senior, Pre-Med Biology major attending Fisk University.