

Fd. Ewa Ife Omo Oba is the manager of the Shrine of the Black Madonna Cultural Center and Bookstore in Atlanta, Georgia, where she has served for more than 25 years. She has consistently been the face, the voice, the teacher, and the griot of the Bookstore and Cultural Center, enriching the lives of thousands with her knowledge, warmth, and wit.

Fd. Ewa brings a community-friendly vibe to the Shrine. An avid reader (nearly 20 books a month), she continues her search for the next big thing in Black literature. Fueled by her passion for the arts, whether music, paintings, sculptures, dance, or the written word, Fd. Ewa creates vehicles to expose the creative gifts of the Black community. With an eye for talent, she has nurtured emerging writers and has helped to propel the careers of such literary favorites as Terry McMillan, Tina McElroy Ansa, the late E. Lynn Harris, and many, many more.

Along with her many responsibilities, Fd. Ewa provides guided tours of the Cultural Center's Karamu Gallery I (museum quality African carvings) and Karamu II (original African American paintings), and the nationally acclaimed Black Holocaust Museum. She also uses her role as a Kwanzaa coordinator at the Shrine to skillfully bring a host of creative genres to the seven-day festival.

Additionally, she has performed more than 50 African-inspired wedding ceremonies in the community, conducted numerous African naming ceremonies, and "adopted" scores of students of the Atlanta University Center, many who stop by to visit her years after completing their studies. Among her many talents, she is a storyteller and an actress extraordinaire!

Fd. Ewa is a founding member of Shrine 9, a member of the Atlanta College Cadre, and a member of the Holy Order of the Essenes. She promotes the Cultural Center and the Church where ever she goes, and is for certain Shrine 9's community outreach queen. Her undying commitment to the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church is to be commended. She is our cultural ambassador to Atlanta and beyond.