

WOW 2017

Sisters on Fire!

“When God passes you through fire, you will come out a better vessel to serve the water of life to our people. “

The 2017 theme for Black Women's History Month is *Sisters on Fire!* We will honor women who have audaciously and successfully challenged the role of women throughout our liberation struggle. African women have always toiled in various capacities; yet, their works have often been overlooked.

This year's Honorees represent diverse circumstances and each made their mark in a different field. Additionally, the Honorees' work and influence spans nine centuries of Pan African history. These women all effectively challenged the economic, social and legal structures that have kept the sundry contributions of foremothers underappreciated and undervalued.

Facing the scorching rays and stark inequalities on the battlefield, in the fields and in the workplace, they fought to make the world less antagonistic for black people. It was through their faith and also by honoring the flames of their inner divinity; they succeeded in expanding women's participation in warfare, abolition, women's rights, civil rights and in the workforce. As Sisters on Fire they defied the social mores of their times by demonstrating their ability to enforce physical and psychological warfare, strategized, organized and to critically think creating a paradigm shift in the mindsets of their white counterparts that ultimately paved the way for better world for generations to come. This year, the PAOCC Shrine of the Black Madonna #9 Atlanta will celebrate seven (7) years of Women's Ministry and we are proud to honor the following *Sisters on Fire for God:*



Deborah, our Sister Judge and called the Mother of Israel avowed ***“I will never break my covenant with you.”***



Sojourner Truth, our Sister Strategist that voiced that ***” It is the mind that makes the body.”***



Fannie Lou Hamer, our Sister Foot Solider prompts us to remember that ***“Black People have got to get together and work together. I'm tired of the kind of oppression that white people have inflicted on us and are still trying to inflict.”***



The Black Madonna, our Mary and national symbol of beauty and inner divinity as represented in the lives of the Brilliant 3, the Sisters of NASA (Katherine Jackson, Mary Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan) their lives reflect what Scientist Mae Jamison affirms, ***“It is important for scientists to be aware of what our discoveries mean socially and politically. It's a noble goal that science should be apolitical, acultural and asocial, it can't be because it's done by people who are all those things.”***

As we salute each of these fiery sisters throughout Women's History Month we assert that our Faith in God sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible. I am reminded of a story of a preacher who once asked a young girl ***“Daughter I'll give you an apple if you can tell me where God is?”*** ***The young sister replied, “Preacher I'll give you a barrel full if you can tell me where God isn't!”*** Just because the presence of Spirit is with us doesn't mean we will not have our own furnaces. But it guarantees that Spirit will walk with us. Are you strong enough to stand the fire?

Women of Worship Ministry²⁰¹⁷

***“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.”
Hebrew 12:28-29***

As we explore what it means to be on fire for God. We will rediscover the power of the **Radical Transformation**. The definition of radical is “having a profound or far-reaching effect,” and transformation is defined as a complete or major change in someone’s or something’s appearance or form. In the moment we trust the anointing **FIRE** (the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit) a **radical transformation** begins in us. This year as Women of Worship, let us endeavor to represent fire in the following:

F-in our **fellowship** with one another as ministers being flames of fire (*Hebrews 1:7*)

I-in our **impartation**, let us our words be words blesses on another as burnt offerings
(*2 Chronicles 7:1*)

R-in our **release** as we let go of the strongholds that divides us (*Amos 1:10*)

E-in our ability to **empower** one another in service to God with a fiery spirit (*Jeremiah 20:09*)



National Calendar of Events Radical Transformation

January 2017

Women Of Worship Devotionals (National and Regional) is an opportunity for sisters in the PAOCC of all ages and stages to collectively minister and share the **radical changes** God has made in our lives as reflected in our work for God in the church and in the larger community.

- ❖ January ~ **WOW NIA**
- ❖ February ~ Regional Devotionals to reflect the Season of Renewal
- ❖ March ~ WOW National Women History Month 2017 Honorees ~ **Elders**
- ❖ April ~Regional Devotionals to reflect the Season of Pentecost
- ❖ May~ **Young Adults**
- ❖ June ~ Regional Devotionals to reflect the Season of Recommitment
- ❖ July ~ **WOW Atlanta**
- ❖ August ~ Regional Devotionals to reflect the Season of Confirmation
- ❖ September ~ **WOW Pearls**
- ❖ October ~ Regional Devotionals to reflect the Season of Celebration
- ❖ November & December ~ **WOW National Advisers** Season of Advent and Christmas

Women of Worship Ministry Meetings and Workshops (*Monthly or Quarterly as regional schedules dictates*)

Suggested Sharing: What radical changes has the Holy Spirit made in your life? Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the work spirit has done in your life, and share this with your group.

March 2017

Women History Month Celebration

Radical transformation is evident in what God did in the lives of our 2017 honorees when spirit sparked the flames within them. Not only did their lives changed but also that of the entire world.

- ❖ *Deborah, the Judge*
- ❖ *Sojourner Truth, Strategist*
- ❖ *Fannie Lou Hamer, Activist*
- ❖ *The Black Madonna, Mother Superior*

National Write Up: All write ups are due by March 3, 2017 (email to *Sister Abeo and Fd. Karimah*)

- ❖ *Deborah, WOW Pearls*
- ❖ *Sojourner Truth, WOW NIA*
- ❖ *Fannie Lou Hamer, WOW Atlanta*
- ❖ *The Black Madonna, WOW Beulah Land*

April 2017- December 2017

50th Anniversary of the unveiling of the Black Madonna a National Celebration

- ❖ WOW Ministry is to purchase an ad for the Souvenir Booklet (*it can be 1 national and or 4 regional ad*)

Women of Worship Ministry National Fundraiser for Cultural Centers (Regional) 2017

- ❖ *To be determined by each regional ministry*

Women of Worship Ministry National Outreach 2017



Hands on Liberia Mission work is at the center of our purpose. Each region will support our churches in Liberia through quarterly donations of school supplies.

- ❖ Spring~ after the 50th Anniversary of the unveiling of the Black Madonna Celebration (or next year)
- ❖ Summer ~ July- August 2017
- ❖ Fall ~ October – November 2017

Women of Worship Ministry Nkenge Abi National Book Scholarship 2017

As a community of sisters, it is only befitting that on this day, this evening of honoring one another, we honor our Shero, the late great Rev. Nkenge Abi, a woman whom forged new paradigms through innovation and entrepreneurship, thinking, cultural sustainability through arts and humanities and her special gift of storytelling. We will honor her life and legacy by gifting a young “*Sister of Promise*” attending a Historical Black College with a book scholarship award through the Heritage Scholarship Fund founded by the Shrine of the Black Madonna College Cadre in 2014.

- ❖ Official Regional Announcement- Introduced in March, Women’s History Month, 2017 by National Advisors (Rev. Abaynesta and Rev. Ife)
- ❖ Application Submittal May1st- July 1st, 2017
- ❖ Establish an N. Abi Scholarship Committee within regions (Ordained 1 Elder and 1 Mother; 2 young adult (that has not applied); National Advisor/ WOW leadership team
- ❖ Scholarship Awarded no later than August 31st, 2017

Women of Worship Ministry Rituals 2017

Sobonfu Some: “There are basic maintenance rituals that we need on a daily basis in order to be able to be well. Those are the rituals that we do on our own behalf, connecting with spirit, connecting with our ancestors and the spirit of the place.” Please facilitate at least 1 of these rituals and make it an annual or quarterly part of your respective region’s women’s’ ministry.

Daily Ritual of Connection: *"I'm alive, and here is my mission for today. I need your support and I need you to show up when I tell you to show up, because I need to be able to get the work done."*

- ❖ **Grieving** ~ This Ritual is to release the everyday tension of whatever is weighing us down or clouding our ways, so that we can function
- ❖ **Blessing** ~ This Ritual is to bless other people, but also rituals to bless ourselves. A lot of times, we're looking for blessings outside, but sometimes we need to bless ourselves, because we know exactly what we need.
- ❖ **Bonding** ~ This Ritual is an opportunity to bond and or to increasing bonding with certain family members. We need these rituals to stay connected, to keep healthy relationships between ourselves.
- ❖ **Conflict (Ash Circle)** ~ This Ritual is to address inner conflict and conflict with a person (s) in our community.
- ❖ **Empowerment** ~ This Ritual is for the empowering of ourselves, because every now and then, everybody needs their battery jump-started, so these rituals are basically there to help us to get to the next level so that we can feel better.
- ❖ **Release** ~ This Ritual allows us to let go of the past, rituals to let go of old partners so that we can start fresh, so that they are not becoming invisible leeches in our lives.
- ❖ **Welcoming** ~ This Ritual is to welcome our ancestors into the sacred space.

Please feel free to contact your regional member of the Cimarron Village for support in facilitating these rituals. If not please reach out to me and I will get support to work with you.