



## JAIYA JOHN / SOUL WATER RISING NEWSLETTER

*Revealing the Divine in Human Relations*

October 2006

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**Dear Jaiya,**

Welcome to the *Jaiya John / Soul Water Rising Newsletter*. Soul Water Rising is an educational mission founded and directed by [Jaiya John](#), who has addressed over 40,000 adults and youth nationwide. We are devoted to improving human relations and overcoming prejudice. For our mission statement, products and services, and areas of focus, please visit our [Web site](#). Enjoy the Rising!

*The world, like an old poet, gets freshened with soul water and light rising new with the sun.*

Rumi

## *FREE YOUTH POETRY CONTEST!*

### **\$100 CASH PRIZES!**

DUE DATE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 30!

The *Soul Water Rising Public Schools Poetry Contest* is a drumbeat calling the young to attention. Our fervent belief in the power of poetry and creative self-expression to cause dramatic personal growth, and healing from life's wounds, led us to create this platform, this space, this drumbeat— with particular attention on youth in the nation's public school system. As Tupac Shakur imagined “the rose that grew from concrete,” we imagine, through poetry, an oasis field of creativity brightening young lives. Literacy as Soul Water defines it—the capacity and desire to know the world and oneself—can transform the spirit. May this FREE poetry contest transform the lives for which these young spirits were born!

For contest rules, deadline, awards, and entry details please visit our Young Life Drumbeat at our [Young Projects](#) page.

## *FREE FOSTER YOUTH POETRY CONTEST!*

### **\$100 CASH PRIZES!**

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 30!

This free annual international poetry contest is a drumbeat calling our nation's current and former foster youth to attention. Here is an opportunity for these young souls to give voice to their experiences and thereby transform themselves and the child welfare system that has touched their lives. Flow poets, flow!

Honorary Winners are awarded the option of having their poem published in an anthology book of foster youth poetry!

For contest rules, deadline, awards, and entry details please visit our Young Life Drumbeat at our [Youth Projects](#) page.

Impoverished is the soul  
who crawls into the  
hole of sameness  
and stays there

rich are the rewards  
for she who hoards  
the garden of life  
abundant  
and prays there.

There is that which opens the heart and that which closes the heart and that is all. No matter the religion, ritual, or rhetoric, our Earthly light is brightened or dimmed by a simple yet ultimate decision: Do we choose to Love.

*Here is a recap of just a few of our recent activities:*

**THIRD ANNUAL NEVADA GOVERNOR'S SUMMIT ON JUVENILE JUSTICE.** Jaiya delivered his keynote, *Polishing the Prism of Our Youth*, at this summit in Reno, Nevada on September 26. The event focus was on reducing disproportionate contact by youth of color with the juvenile justice system, a reality that plagues communities across the nation. The summit was attended and addressed by Nevada Governor Kenny C. Guinn. Jaiya's message highlighted the unique life purpose of every young person and the importance of nurturing in them a whole identity and sense of beauty and belonging.

**ARKANSAS COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE / ARKANSAS DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: CONFERENCE ON REDUCING RACIAL DISPARITY IN JUVENILE JUSTICE.** This impassioned conference, held in North Little Rock, Arkansas on October 3, had a focus and tone similar to that of the Nevada summit. Jaiya's keynote, *Juvenile Justice is a Seed within the Child*, implored the audience to honor the inherent potential of youth, and our adult responsibility to guide them with compassion and without prejudice. Jaiya distinguished between punishment and discipline as two distinct ways of relating to youth; both ways yielding predictable outcomes.

**CROZET AND WOODBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS: STAFF SEMINAR ON CREATING WRITING VOICE WITHIN DIVERSE YOUTH.** On October 12 in White Hall, Virginia, Jaiya presented to a very attentive audience of educators on the theme of eliciting in youth from diverse backgrounds their true *song* to the world. He recited his

poem, *I Could Not Resist the Sun and So I Blossomed*, which celebrates our human need for self expression.

PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE POST- ADOPTION SYMPOSIUM. Jaiya's October 17 keynote in the Bryn Mawr area outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was entitled *Genuine Embrace Within Adoptive Families*. The audience of families and professionals were very receptive to a message concerning the difference between loving and honoring the whole cultural truth of our adoptive children.

NEW (2005) REVISED 2ND EDITION OF *BLACK BABY WHITE HANDS: A VIEW FROM THE CRIB!* This award-winning adoption memoir has now SOLD OVER 10,000 COPIES and has been adopted by schools, universities, book clubs, child welfare agencies, and youth-serving organizations globally. Bulk rate discounts are available. [To learn more:](#)



*COMING SOON!*

*In addition to our usual slate of keynote speeches both nationally and internationally, here are some of the projects we plan to initiate in the coming months:*

- New full-length books
- New social issues essays
- Collaborative community-based projects
- Youth poetry, short story and essay contests
- Youth mentoring projects

In particular, check our Web site soon for the following:

***THE MISSING INGREDIENT IN DISPROPORTIONALITY INITIATIVES***

This opinion essay reflects upon the national trend of initiatives targeting the disproportionality of children of color in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Through an insightful perspective on system change processes, the essay pinpoints deeply rooted attitudes, insecurities, and fears as the greatest threat to the success of these "collaborative" endeavors to improve the lives of our children. Concise factors are identified that may separate fruitful from ineffective initiatives.

***YOUNG LIFE DRUMBEAT***

Visit this page of our Web site regularly for updates on various youth projects and contests focused on literacy, leadership, and personal growth.

## *JAIYA JOHN PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING SERVICE*

### UPCOMING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT:

November 10 and 11. RICHMOND, VA. United Methodist Family Services. Seminars on Culture, Identity, and Family Development in Adoption. November 10: Seminar to professionals. November 11: Luncheon keynote and Q&A discussion to families.

**\*NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH!\***

### INTERESTED IN HAVING JAIYA SPEAK?

Do you want to bring Jaiya John to your organization, group, or community to share an inspired message on some aspect of human relations? If so, reach out to us and let's make it happen! Simply email or call using the contact information listed at the end of this newsletter. Please visit our Web site to see a list of Jaiya's speaking clients, his speaking topics, and for more [SERVICE DETAILS](#).

## *SUPPORT SOUL WATER RISING*

### PASS ON THE WORD TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION!

We achieve our goals of personal and social change through a national and international network of people like you. Relationships and word of mouth are our greatest strengths. One of the most helpful ways that you can contribute to our work is simply by letting others know about us. PLEASE RECOMMEND THIS NEWSLETTER to your family, friends, colleagues, and clients. Just click on the 'FORWARD' link at the bottom of this newsletter. Also, please invite others to visit our Web site ([www.soulwater.org](http://www.soulwater.org)). Thanks!

## *GET THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FREE!*

TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER for FREE, sign up at [www.soulwater.org](http://www.soulwater.org) or click on the 'SUBSCRIBE ME!' link at the bottom of this newsletter. If you are already subscribed, no worries. You will automatically receive this newsletter.

**PRIVACY STATEMENT:** We will not distribute your email address to anyone. Not ever.

## *ADD US TO YOUR ADDRESS BOOK*

TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS, please add info@soulwater.org and jaiya@soulwater.org to your address book. Thanks!

## *HELPFUL LINKS*

[INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY AND CHILD WELL-BEING](#). African American child education and resource organization.

[PARA PUBLISHING](#). Comprehensive resource for writing and self-publishing.

[TAPESTRY BOOKS](#). Mail order service for adoption books.

[EVAN B. DONALDSON ADOPTION INSTITUTE](#). Adoption education and advocacy.

[PROJECT BUTTERFLY](#). Workbook and other resources for girls and young women of African descent.

[ORPHAN FOUNDATION OF AMERICA](#). Foster youth scholarships, internships, mentoring, and more.

[ROOM TO READ](#). Serves literacy needs of children in Nepal, India, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and Sri Lanka. Partners with local communities to establish schools, libraries, and computer & language labs. Donates English language books, publishes local language books, and funds scholarships.

[DANIEL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE](#). Resources for independent living and foster care. Assessment tools, videos, software, DVDs, books, games, starter kits, curriculum.

[HURSTON / WRIGHT FOUNDATION](#). Its mission is to develop, nurture and sustain the world community of writers of African descent. The foundation offers awards, workshops, a bookstore, and other resources.

[ABA EDUCATIONAL ART](#). GEM Art Studio, featuring the work of George E. Miller II. Specializing in Educational & Multicultural Art Lithograph Prints for Schools, Classrooms, Offices, Fundraisers & Gifts.

[More helpful links. . . .](#)

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phone: 301.933.4967  
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