

# Letters to the Editor

## From Rudolph Lewis:

I am not sure what to say about Carlos Moore. I know a lot of controversy swirls around his head. Some suspect he is a CIA agent. Nor have I been to Cuba, that is, I do not know what to think about racism in Cuba.

But it can never be worse than it is in America during my life time beginning in the early 50s when I became conscious that there were two Americas and I was fenced into that inferior America.

That is, I and mine were required to accept with a smile crumbs from the table. And it has been that way until now.

Loving you madly, Rudy

## From Fritz Pointer:

Wow! Wonderful, wonderful poems. Thanks Marvin. I can see why Plato said to do away with the poets.

Fritz

**From Rudolph Lewis** <[rudolphlewis@hotmail.com](mailto:rudolphlewis@hotmail.com)>

To: Marvin X <[jmarvinx@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarvinx@yahoo.com)>

Sent: Mon, October 4, 2010 4:14:02 PM

Subject: RE: Preview #4: Journal of Pan African Studies Poetry Issue, deadline extended to October 15 for submissions

Very, very good, Marvin!!! You will have an excellent collection of poetry from some of the best poets in America. I predict that this will be the best selection of poems that any Guest Editor has ever put together.

Long Live the Black Arts Movement! Long live the struggle of Black poets to make a New America, one that Langston would admire and cheer! Hurray! Hurrah! O, Holy Days!

Loving you madly, Rudy

**From Amiri Baraka:**

Some very good woik, Boi!!  
AB

**From Fritz Pointer:**

Thanks Marvin. Beautiful work. I do appreciate you. I am really with company I want to be with.

Fritz

News from East Boogie (aka East Saint Louis IL) The Honorable **Eugene B. Redmond**,  
Poet Laureate of East Boogie

thanx x, for this & all good gifts u send . . . below's what's happening out here in the "heart of the heart of the country" . . . easy, ebr . . .

TO: All Media; Poets & Writers; Art, Dance, English & Music Departments

“2010” Slated for October 19 in East St. Louis: EBR Writers Club Presents “Break Word,” a “2010” Celebration in Poetry, Dance, Jazz & Exhibits in a Conch/us/nest-raising Atmosphere

East Saint Louis, IL—“2010,” a multi-arts expo of “Remembrance & Celebration” sponsored by the Eugene B. Redmond Writers Club, will be presented Tuesday, Oct. 19 at 6:00 p.m. in Bldg. B, Room 2083 of the SIUE/East St. Louis Higher Education Center, 601 J.R. Thompson Drive. The public is invited to this free event, part of the Club’s annual “Break Word with the World” program.

“2010” will feature the following poets/performers “live” from the “Soular System”: Roscoe Crenshaw, Jim Klenn, Byron Lee, Susan “Spit-Fire” Lively, Darlene Roy, Jeffrey Skoblow, Treasure Williams, Jaye Willis and Eugene B. Redmond. Their aim? To raise “conch/us/nest” through art.

Among other expo offerings:

- \*“2010 Experience in Dance” (SIUE/ESL Center for the Performing Arts, directed by Theo Jamison);
- \*“Jazz 2010” (with Saxophonist Kendrick Smith and keyboardist Brian Harrison);
- \* “The Festive & the Funereal” (mixed media exhibit);
- \*“Kwansabas of Remembrance & Celebration” for Ezora Woodard Duncan (1920-2010) and Dr. Lena J. (Knight) Weathers, Writers Club trustee who turned 80 Sept. 5.

The exhibit will include photos, posters, newspaper clippings, magazines, art work, book and album (LP) covers and other memorabilia from the Eugene B. Redmond Collection, which is housed at SIU-Edwardsville. Also, open mic and book sales will be part of the evening.

The Writers Club, founded in 1986 and named for East St. Louis' poet laureate, is enjoying its 24th year. All writers are welcome to meetings, held at the SIUE/ESL Center on the first and third Tuesday, September through May. Club Trustees include Maya Angelou, Amiri Baraka, Avery Brooks, Walter Mosley, Quincy Troupe, Jerry Ward Jr., and Dr. Weathers. Trustees also serve on the editorial board of "*Drumvoices Revue*," a multicultural literary journal co-published by SIUE and the Club. Darlene Roy is president of the group.

Besides the Club, other sponsors of "2010" include "*Drumvoices*," SIUE, Black River Writers Press, and the East St. Louis Cultural Revival Campaign Committee. For more information about the Writers Club or area cultural-literary activities, call 618 650-3991 or write the group at P.O. Box 6165, East St. Louis, Illinois 62201; [redmon@siue.edu](mailto:redmon@siue.edu).

**From Abdul Sabry:**

Thanks Bros. Marvin and Lewis for the excellent historical narrative of Dingane, the Journal of Black Poetry and West Coast Black Arts Movement(BAM). I worked closely with Dingane as editor of Black Dialogue and I have always known him to be a dedicated and focused person. He single-handedly edited and published the Journal to the sacrifice of family and expanded income. The Journal didn't have patrons or commercial backing. That is why Dingane could be so candid and forceful. He was also a pioneer entrepreneur with the New Day Bookstore on Divisadero St. in one of the historic black commercial sections of "old" San Francisco which has greatly demised with the coming of the "new" San Francisco and Urban (Removal) Development..The only surviving black commercial section of San Francisco is the Third Street corridor and it is shrinking daily. Dingane would be in for a cultural shock if he walked the streets of The Fillmore (the traditional black commercial strip) today. Dingane is such a low-keyed and unassuming person that one would not suspect so forceful and powerful words to come from such a quiet person, but as the "Four Tops" sang, "Still Water Run Deep".Dingane had the vision to see the lack of Black community consciousness in the-San Francisco Bay Area and relocated to Lovely Atlanta a center of Black southern culture, an area we should consciously act to preserve and expand-especially the economic base. Dingane, we miss you out West, but I know the pull of Atlanta. W.E.B. DuBois had a similar experience. The best to you and your family.

**From Itibari Zulu:**

Thank you brother Lewis for that history of *The Journal of Black Poetry*, a journal I read with great excitement during my youth until it became *Kitabu Cha Jua*. And New Day Bookstore with the always honorable brother Jose Goncalves was how I got my copy. From the man himself. I was in the mist of the BAM and I didn't know it at the time, wow.

Hello Marvin:

You may want to pass on to our contributors and our potential contributors that since January we have had 127,389 visitors to our site, with 14,993 visitors this month. So quite a few people access and read our content. The top five nations who access our site is the U.S., the U.K., Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya (data for September 2010). This info may encourage more contributors.

Itibari M. Zulu, M.L.S., Th.D.

Senior Editor, *The Journal of Pan African Studies* ([www.jpanafrican.com](http://www.jpanafrican.com));

Provost, Amen-Ra Theological Seminary; First Vice President, The African

Diaspora Foundation; Founding Member, The Bennu Institute of Arizona (P.O. Box 20151,

Phoenix, Arizona 85036-0151).

**From Kweli Tutashinda:**

Although I am not a poet, I have been greatly influenced by Black Arts Movement poets, writers and editors particularly, Haki Madhubuti, Kalamu ya Salaam, Sonia Sanchez, Toni Cade Bambara and Joe Dingane Goncalves. I visited Dingane often...when I first moved to the Bay Area in 1981 over on Divisadero Street at his New Day Bookstore. We were beginning to publish our journal, *Foresight: A Holistic View of African- American Struggle*. He was very supportive and saw it vital that I knew the link between all of the earlier grassroots publications that had existed such as *Soulbook*, *Umbra*, *Liberator*, *Black Theater*, *Black Art* and of course, his own *Journal of Black Poetry* and our project. He wanted me to know and understand that they along with the *Black Scholar*, *Negro Digest/Black World*, *Black Books Bulletin*, *Nkombo*, *Muhammad Speaks* and other independent outlets for black thought should not be taken for granted and be supported. He understood that a free ex-change of ideas, especially different ones, encouraged growth and enlightenment. We have a treasure trove of brilliant thinkers that are professional scholars, 'organic thinkers,' or individuals blessed with 'mother wit,' young and old who have always produced work and actions of depth and quality. Congratulations to Marvin X, who like the ones mentioned earlier is a keeper of the 60's Black Art Movement flame and one of our brightest scribes and Itibari Zulu, who knows the inherent importance of rigorous scholarship and art dedicated to freedom.

Peace,  
K. Tutashinda, D.C.  
Imhotep Chiropractic & Wellness Center  
<http://www.imhotepchiropractic.com/>

**From Jeannette Drake:**

This looks great. Somewhere in my papers I have a (1970's?) rejection slip from Goncalves. I didn't write my first poem until 1968. It was a response to being a social worker. When I started to work with black male incarcerated adolescents...addicted to heroin, the poet in me awoke...

I'm sending you two more unpublished poems.

Jeannette  
Drake

**From Greg Morozumi:**

To: Marvin X  
Sent: Tue, October 5, 2010 10:26:36 PM  
Subject: Re: Letters to the Editor, Journal of Pan African Studies Poetry Issue

Greetings MX-

The idea of a new Black poetry/ literary journal (whether online/ in-print/ or both) is long overdue. Just as during the BAM days, progressive Black consciousness should be at the core of it. If you want to do a launching at EastSide, let me know. Remember the exhibit on Black publications we put up a year ago?--maybe we should do something similar but focusing specifically on the Black Arts. (I have all the past Journals of Black Poetry--thanks in part to Dingane--Soul Book, some Black Dialogue, misc. chapbooks, etc.). But, it is all a futile effort if you don't make it intergenerational, and further, a cultural Black united front (good luck with that). But, insofar as your efforts are in line with our own mission of supporting Black power/ Black self-determination, we will support you.

Greg Morozumi  
Eastside Arts Alliance (ESAA)

**Marvin X replies to Itibari:**

Sista said deeply shallow!

**From Itibari M. Zulu** <[imzsr@yahoo.com](mailto:imzsr@yahoo.com)>

To: Marvin X Jackmon <[jmarvinx@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarvinx@yahoo.com)>

Sent: Wed, October 13, 2010 7:37:20 PM

Subject: Re: Letters to the Editor, Journal of Pan African Studies, Poetry Issue and Black Bird Press News

Cool, folks are digging deep to find the truth.

Itibari M. Zulu, M.L.S., Th.D.

Senior Editor, *The Journal of Pan African Studies* ([www.jpanafrican.com](http://www.jpanafrican.com));

Provost, Amen-Ra Theological Seminary; First Vice President, The African

Diaspora Foundation; Founding Member, The Bennu Institute of Arizona (P.O. Box 20151, Phoenix, Arizona 85036-0151).

--- On Wed, 10/13/10, Marvin X Jackmon <[jmarvinx@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarvinx@yahoo.com)> wrote:

**From Marvin X Jackmon** <[jmarvinx@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarvinx@yahoo.com)>

Subject: Letters to the Editor, Journal of Pan African Studies, Poetry Issue and Black Bird Press News

Re: In Search of My Soul Sister

Marvin X replies to Nefertitti and Jeanette:

Thank you for your kind remarks. When we accept the truth of reality, we grow, when we don't, we die a slow death. As per the white woman, yes, she enjoys white privilege, but some, a few, are trying to recover from their addiction to white supremacy. And we face the same challenge with our supremacy thinking. I will never forget how white women in Seattle cried after reading my poem For the women. It humbled me. They wanted to know what process I'd gone through to write it. The essay In Search of My Soul Sisters tells some of the process. At the same time we must understand what Dr Nathan Hare says, that she is the white man in drag.

And Fahizah says the white woman's womb produces the children of white supremacy who shall continue their domination and exploitation of the non-white world. During the presidential campaign, we saw Hillary express her white supremacy power play in dogging Obama. On the other hand, we are proud of Marilyn Buck, the white woman revolutionary who recently made her transition, but in the tradition of John Brown, aligned herself with Black Liberation, to the extent of helping free Asata Shakur from prison and assisting her flight to Cuba. Now I would rather have dinner with Ms Buck than a Beyonce!

Peace and love,  
Marvin

**Nefertitti said...**

Re: In Search of My Soul Sister

Oh do I love the way that you preach the TRUTH. There are many sisters who love you and as you say, have always supported you. I am one, and I am eternally grateful for your boldness, for the truth for which you speak. I am grateful for the way that you have allowed yourself to evolve into a whole person, a person who is a lover of humanity. Many of us have gotten stuck into ignorant dogmas that have long ago proven their fallacies, but we fail to abandon them. I love you and you have given birth to a quiet feminine version of yourself.

October 12, 2010

**From Jeannette Drake:**

Eloquently expressed and I love this "quiet feminine version" of you too,  
Brother M.

**Marvin X replies to Aubrey on Anthony Mays:**

Correction, Aubrey, his name is Anthony Mays and he's been living in South Korea, not New Zealand.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From Anthony Mays** <[lump50@hotmail.com](mailto:lump50@hotmail.com)>

To: [jmarvinx@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarvinx@yahoo.com)

Sent: Wed, October 13, 2010 3:38:33 PM

Subject: RE: touching bases

My dear Brother,

Thank you so much for the forwarded message and I sincerely appreciate and respectfully accept Audrey's concern and criticism. The poem about the first US president accepted as being black (for J.A. Rogers alleged that there were five previous "negro" presidents) was based upon research and upon Mr. Obama's relationships and actions, which

speaks much louder than words. In fact, the issue of his color should be the least important factor, but his actions, appointments and policies while in office should be of greatest concern. Surely Ms. Audrey is aware of the fact that Blackness is not a color, but a mentality, just as "whiteness" is a mentality, a behavior.

Thank you again, my brother, and much peace and success.  
Anthony

**From Aubrey LaBrie:**

marvin,

i love your proposed festival for dingane and journal of black poetry.

a few comments about one of the poems that came through on your emails. it was a little rhyme poem put-down of obama by a negro named joseph may, i think. now i am first in line to say that obama is not above criticism. the problem i have with the negro, joseph may, is that for the past 12 years he has been living in new zealand, a notorious refuge for europeans and euro-north americans seeking to avoid the backlash stemming from imperialistic and colonialist policies. not to mention that new zealand is the product of imperial domination of indigenous people. so his context and perspective for criticizing obama gives cause for pause.

i have to confess that i may be overlooking the possibility that negro joseph may might have followed your prescription of how to overcome the addiction to white supremacy.

peace  
aubrey

**Dr. Mandy replies to Anthony Mays and Marvin X:**

Brother Mays:

Thank you for the poem. I am glad for your perspective, and for the force with which you write/speak truth.

I am a professor at Long Beach State in the Africana Studies Department, where I teach everything from Composition to African Psychology, to Civil Rights and the Law, and to Economic Development. I am also a huge fan of African-centered poetry as expressed in the Black Aesthetics school of which Brother Marvin X is a part. I have had the pleasure of meeting him, and hope that you do get that chance.

I am currently in Sri Lanka on a Fulbright Fellowship. I will be in Korea this coming July, 2011, teaching two psychology courses at Dankook University. Perhaps we will meet while I am there.

Brother Marvin:

Keep up the good fight! I have abiding faith in your ability and willingness to speak truth, and am glad that you will be using the Journal of Pan African Studies to get new voices such as Brother Mays the opportunity to enlighten us.

Peace and Power to both of you.

Be well.

Lionel Mandy