



JAIYA JOHN / SOUL WATER RISING NEWSLETTER

Revealing the Divine in Human Relations

June 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 [Dr. Jaiya John](#). We are devoted to improving human relations, overcoming prejudice, and fostering personal growth. 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!

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!

CASH PRIZE OF \$100 FOR GRAND PRIZE WINNERS! For contest rules, deadline, and entry details please visit our [Young Life Drumbeat](#) page.

Not all scheduled events are listed. Calendar will change as engagements are added. Please visit the [Speaking](#) page at our Web site for further information.

February 24. FAIRFAX, VA. Fairfax County Black History Month Celebration. *Truth IS Reconciliation.*

March 19 & 20. WILLIAMSBURG, VA. Southeastern Childcare Association 101st Annual Meeting. *The Meaning of Compassionate Care in the Diverse New World.*

March 25. BURLINGTON, VT. Vermont Foster / Adoptive Family Association, 19th Annual Conference. *Self Discovery and the Good Fortune of Change.*

March 26. BURLINGTON, VT. Vermont Adoption Consortium. *The True Nature of Culture in the Adoptive Family.*

April 24. CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. Virginia Association of Child Placing Agencies Spring Conference. *Honoring the Whole Child.*

April 26. HANOVER, VA. Hanover Department of Social Services, Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet. *Resiliency is A Song We Sing.*

May 4. MONTCLAIR, VA. Prince William County Department of Social Services, Annual Foster Parent Recognition Banquet. *This is How I Know You Love Me.*

May 11. VERONA, NY. Humanitarian Organization for Multicultural Experiences, Inc. Agency Retreat. *Celebrating the Worker Within.*

May 13. JACKSON, MI. Jackson County DHS / Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange / Family Service and Children's Aid / Lutheran Social Services; Foster/Adoptive Parent and Worker Training. *The Reflection Pond: Identity and Attachment Issues in Foster and Adoptive Families.*

June 2. RADFORD, VA. Radford University School of Social Work--Institute for Children and Families, Annual Child Welfare Conference. *Community Security Blankets Against Youth Violence.*

June 4. NASHVILLE, TN. Tennessee Department of Children's Services; Office of Independent and Transitional Living. Second Annual Celebration of Excellence. *Your Life is Your Resume.*

June 9. BOWLING GREEN, KY. University of Kentucky, Statewide Foster Youth Leadership and Empowerment Conference. *Your Story is Your Glory.*

June 16. BRONX, NY. New York Foundling, Annual Bronx Conference. *Leadership Springs from the Compassionate Heart.*

June 24. NORTHRIDGE, CA. California State Dept. of Social Services Annual Statewide Teen Forum. *I Declare My Interdependence.*

July 1. GRANBY, CO. Keynote and Q&A. Heritage Camps, Inc., African Caribbean Heritage Camp. *Revealing the Texture of Family Beauty.*

July 13. HARRISBURG, PA. Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) Annual Conference. Youth keynote: *The Unique Purpose of Your Extraordinary Life.*

July 14. HARRISBURG, PA. Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) Annual Conference. *Tapping the Life Circle of the Child, the Parent, the Professional.*

July 15. WASHINGTON, DC. D.C. Child and Family Services Agency, Annual Foster Youth Recognition Ceremony. *On the Edge of Sunrise: Becoming Your True Adult Self.*

August 3. TWIN CITIES, MN. Children's Home Society & Family Services. Annual All-Staff Training and Appreciation Day. *Embracing Your Whole: The Truth About Being Human.*

August 22. CHESIRE, CT. Connecticut Dept. of Children and Families; Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents. Adoption Symposium. *Who I Am is Everything.*

August 24. LITTLE ROCK, AR. National Resource Center for Youth Services. Arkansas Transition to Adulthood Conference. *Beautiful Becomings.*

August 30. WALLA WALLA, WA. Whitman College. New Student Orientation. *The Journey to Personal Discovery.*

September 13. St. Louis, MO. Daniel Memorial Institute National Independent Living Growing Pains Conference. *Born Teachers.*

INTERESTED IN HAVING JAIYA SPEAK?

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH!

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](#).

WHAT'S RISING

Since our founding in 2001, Soul Water Rising has blossomed into a significant voice for social change as this nation and world strive toward a more mature and honorable culture of human relations. HERE IS A RECAP OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Presented keynote speeches and seminars to more than 23,000 people nationwide
- Presented keynote speeches and seminars to more than 8,000 youth and students
- Trained more than 12,000 professionals and parents
- Mentored over 100 youth nationwide
- Provided consultation to dozens of organizations and families
- Shared free inspirational poetry with thousands of people worldwide

IN 2005 WE PUBLISHED A NEW 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 everywhere. [To learn more:](#)

2006 is an exciting year for all of those who support the mission of Soul Water Rising. 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.

FOSTER YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

This free poetry contest is a drumbeat calling our nation's foster youth 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.

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.

Because Love is so essential to this Earth and so difficult to grasp for its inhabitants it is necessary that we sing its song ten billion ways, and then each morning begin another ten billion serenades. We can never trumpet this truth too many times or drape it in too many variations. We must drum Love over and over until its echo drowns out the merciless shrill of prejudice and dishonor. We cannot be too redundant in this mission. In fact we must be obsessive in our exaltation. Our children must rise in the morning and wash their spirits clean with this truth even as they wash their faces. They must drift into the absorbing night with this anthem in their ears as it slips steadily toward a bedding in their hearts. Some may say you speak too much of Love and that the world is more cruel than that. And we may respond assuredly that this world will leave its cruelty only so far as we speak too much of Love. There is no quota in this endeavor. Repetition is a Great Teacher in any regard whether it speaks of hatred or of compassion and so let our daily compass be set toward compassion and may that constellation greet us with the blossoming of our own beauty lying latent but fertile within.

SUPPORT SOUL WATER RISING

DO YOU WISH TO SUPPORT OUR SOUL WATER RISING MISSION?

We achieve our goals of 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). Thanks!

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

[INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY AND CHILD WELL-BEING](#). African American child educational 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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