Spreading Our Roots

On the International Front...

**Join Imani on a Trip To Mali**

A few members of the Imani Edu-Tainers African Dance Company are preparing to travel to West Africa’s biggest country. From July 17 through July 31, 2008 they will experience Mali with Master Abdoulaye Diallo and learn the traditional culture, music, language and dance.

Does this sound like a great opportunity? Sound like something you would like to experience? Well, YOU CAN! The dance company is inviting others to join them on their trip.

**Accommodations & Activities**

You will stay in a Malian style villa in the capital city of Bamako. Mande scholar Moussa Jangara will begin each day with a lesson on the history and culture of Mali as well as an introduction to basic Bambara-the indigenous language.

Interested participants are invited to join traditional ceremonies of the Bambara, Khassonke, Malinke, Minianka, and Bobo peoples.

You will also have the opportunity to study drumming and dancing with members of award winning Troupe Bamako and members of the National Ballet of Mali.

Bamako features fantastic street markets where traditional medical practitioners sell their wares alongside weavers, mask makers, painters, and textile artists.

Those who are interested in joining Imani for this trip to Mali should contact the dance company for reservation details and fees.

**The Tour Includes:**

- Comfortable room and board with two meals per day
- Classes taught by Master Drummers and Dancers of Mali
- Observation of Traditional Ceremonies
- Travel to historic villages of Mande, an area just south west of the capital Bamako
- Learn basic Bambara

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MateMasie — “What I hear, I keep”

Rites of passage ceremonies have taken place for many centuries and have assisted many in making important transitions in life.

MateMasie”, named after an Adinkra symbol of wisdom, knowledge and prudence, which translates to say, “What I hear, I keep” is a traditional rites of passage program designed to reduce teen pregnancy rates among girls ages 11-14 years and help them transition from a child to a young adult.

In order to achieve the goal of the Rites of Passage program students are secluded from society for a brief period. An adult is present at all times and participants take part in workshops that involve visual art, ancestral and family history research, and dance and drumming techniques. The following topical areas are covered throughout the process.

- Self Identity
- Ancestral & Family History
- Healthy Attitudes
- Decision-making
- Sexuality Education
- Goal Setting
- Reducing Sexual Risk
- African Dance and Rhythms

Seven young ladies completed this program with Imani in September and were presented to the community at Mulberry Arts Studio on November 4th. During the presentation ceremony participants read something that they had written during the Rites of Passage experience and gave their family a gift.

MateMasie Rites of Passage programs will take place at various times throughout the year. If you would like more information, please contact the dance company.

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Community Classes Are Going Strong

The holidays are fast approaching and what better way to work off the anticipated weight gain...that’s right, African dance and drumming can help burn off quite a few calories.

Classes have already begun, but it is not too late. Classes for adults and teens are held on Thursdays from 7-8:15 p.m. Children’s Dance and Drumming Classes are held Mondays from 6-7 p.m. and also feature some additional activities.

All classes are held at Mulberry Arts Studio. You can simply show up the day of the class or call the dance company to let them know you are coming. Get them in now...there will be a short winter break from December 14th through January 14th.

Despite what you might think...holiday shopping doesn’t burn that many calories.
Kids’ Groove

Can You Solve This Puzzle?

Countries of Africa

F A W E I L A M S M L K K Z K
I Y I G C G G U D J A K E Q T J
A F B N K Y Z J G Y C N G P D
E O O Z A N P E W S K Y Q P K
W C X Y U Z N T J B R A S A G
W Z X S I E N A N G O L A E V
X J T H S Y Z A Z T O Q S Q Y
H M I D L C O L T R B V H J P
P D A Q S V V M R Y C H M C R
H Q I B R L Z A Y K D K O O Q
O B B Y Q E R D F E W N I P I
P S I B L U N Q B H G K C I V
C I M G Q A R F Z O N W Q Z F
A U A W M T I I H X I E J D J
D M N A G D Z I F P P N O C S

ANGOLA
CONGO
EGYPT
KENYA
MALI
NAMIBIA
SENEGAL

So, you got all of them but can you find Tanzania?

Movin’ & Groovin’

It is important, no matter what age you are, that you take care of yourself. I know, it is much easier to sit in your bedroom and play video games, but let’s just say that you did that all of fall and winter. What do you think your body would feel like when you finally get up and do something active when warmer weather approaches? You guessed it...not so great.

There are so many opportunities locally to get involved in something that will engage you physically. Yes, I mean exercise! Throughout these colder months make it your mission to find just one activity that will make you move your body. And, hey, encourage a friend to tag along. Everything is better with a buddy.

Are you thinking that you can’t find an activity to do all by yourself? Ask a parent to help you or even a teacher. Adults realize how important it is to be active and most of them would be happy to help you.

Soccer not your thing? Not basketball either? Well, maybe Imani Edutainers can help. They offer African Dance & Drumming Classes during the week and they even throw in a few other activities along the way. There are also after school opportunities through the LIFE program for those who attend Burrowes and Lafayette Elementary Schools. Check out your options. You don’t want to get old before your time!
Keep your eyes peeled for information on the following events:

Imani Edu-Tainers Supports Franklin & Marshall College

Franklin & Marshall College’s Dance Company will hold its annual Fall Dance Concert November 16-18th in the Schnader Auditorium of the Roschel Performing Arts Center.

Sonya Mann-McFarlane, Founder and Artistic Director of Imani Edu-Tainers African Dance Company will be one of the featured choreographers for this event. For more information call 717-358-4858.

Pre-Kwanzaa Celebrations

Imani Edu-Tainers African Dance Company will perform at this year’s Pre-K Kwanzaa Celebration at Harrisburg Area Community College-Harrisburg Campus on December 1st. More information on this event can be found on HACC’s website at: www.hacc.edu.

The dance company will also perform at a Pre-K Kwanzaa Celebration at Millersville University, sponsored by the NAACP MU Chapter, on December 15th in Lyte Auditorium from 5-7 p.m.