

Operation Sankofa's 9th Black Dolls Expo!

Saturday, 13th May 2017 – 1.30pm till 5.30pm

Maa Maat Centre, 366a High Road, Tottenham, London N17 9HT. UK

Theme: Back to Basics

At the close of the 8th Black Dolls Expo, I made the bold statement that it would be the last such event in London. However, the option to put on something a little different was suggested as a recognition of the fact that Folk were beginning to appreciate the 'service' the Team and I provide. Parents, Carers, Professionals and Participants (Vendors & Collectors) were assured of the fact that at least once during the year, a session would bring them together under one roof to 'celebrate and promote' Black Dolls.

A deliberate decision then was to return to one of my original goals of encouraging dialogue around the issue of the need for Black Dolls and, how we are to enable access to appealing, affordable and available merchandise. For that to happen, it has been necessary to limit the number of Stalls and increase the presentations by those sharing experiences charting the pursuit of those objectives – including the views of attendees, both adults and children.

Ta Daah!!

The 9th Black Dolls Expo

For the past eight years I have had the privilege of meeting /engaging with so many inspirational individuals as well as a number of positive and forward looking organisations who have helped shape what has become an establishment; the Operation Sankofa 'I want one just like me!' initiative, characterised by the annual Black Dolls Expo! The intention is to host a session which brings the focus back on what we can all do to improve the situation. The dedicated Team members and I hope to encourage discussions between all interested parties in order to find out where we are currently – providing appealing, affordable and available Black Dolls.

Operation Sankofa: 'I want one just like me!'

May 2017

'Back to Basics'





Welcome to Operation Sankofa's 9th Black Dolls Expo!* - 'Back to Basics'

Programme Outline:

1.30pm - Doors Open

Browsing – Bonding – Buying **2.00pm** Introductions and Settling Down First Session – Hosted by **Rosanna Lewis** - Muatta Books

Ama Gueye – Founder of Operation Sankofa – Celebrating and Promoting Black Dolls

Rita Kappia – Creative Arts Development Expert – No Sew Doll Making

- Our Special Guest -**Saffron Jackson** – Founder and CEO of Zuree Dolls Ltd. Creator of 'Toya' – the first Jamaican Patois talking doll. How culture, determination, vision and skill erupts into an entrepreneurial success story!

Q& A – Everyone has a question.

2.45pm - BREAK – Refreshing & Re-uniting

3.10pm - I CAN Project Founder – **Dwayne Patrick** – Call & Response Energiser; even the Adults will tap their feet.

Group Activities for All: Doll Making; Group discussions; Craft Corner; Shopping

4.15pm – Regroup. Announcements

Second Session

* International Guest – **Rosine Mondor** - President of 'Poupees Des Tropiques' – umbrella group based in Paris.

Siobhan Lecointe – Founder of AfroToys – one of our original vendors – passionate about providing diverse resources for our children.

Q & A

5.00pm – Networking / Discussing / Sharing Doll stories/ Sales

5.20pm - Review, Reflect & do the Raffle

5.30pm CLOSE

Massive Thank You to – Our Supporters, special guests, the Team - Tafara, Mareme, Rosanna, Sharon, Daba, Jennifer, Paul, Prema, Muhammad and Aunty Joyce.

Also the help from Daniel, Oumou & Pape.

We are appreciative of support from **Bro' Jeffta and NNA Pepukayi** – for the use of the Maa Maat Centre & Community Bookshop.

© Operation Sankofa: 'I want one just like me!' – Ama Gueye – May 2017