



ADVISORY BOARD

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NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The chosen name for this organization is YEMAYA (pronounced ee'mah-zha).

OVERVIEW OF YEMAYA

In West African tradition, YEMAYA is associated with female mysteries. Like water, she represents both change and constancy bringing forth life, protecting it, and changing it as is necessary. Portrayed as a beautiful woman, she intervenes in women's affairs. YEMAYA also represents surrender. Surrender in this case doesn't mean giving up, rather giving over, asking assistance so that she may do what she wants to do. Wholeness is nurtured as one realizes the way through certain situations is to surrender and open to something greater. YEMAYA nurtures, heals, touches, blesses, comforts, and makes whole that which is incomplete. Invoke YEMAYA for blessings, compassion, wisdom, riches, inspiration, creativity, creation, fertility, female power, women's wisdom, protection of home, good health, true beauty, washing away sorrow, revealing mysteries, and learning not to give your power away.

EMBLEM

The ankh is a tau cross with a loop at the top and is the chosen symbol for YEMAYA. Through the crossbar will read "YEMAYA" in ethnic letter design.

OVERVIEW OF THE ANKH

The precise origin of the symbol remains a mystery as no single hypothesis has been widely accepted. Over time, the ankh has come to symbolize life and immortality, the universe, power, male and female, and balance. The ankh can also represent zest, joy of life, and energy. It is important to note that the ankh is not a religious symbol, nor is YEMAYA a religious organization.

COLORS

Purple and tan are the chosen colors for YEMAYA. Purple has a sacred place in nature and is often associated with things that are delicate and considered precious. Purple symbolizes royalty, ambition, wisdom, dignity, independence, creativity, and femininity. The color tan represents tranquility, simple beauty, and reliable character with a keen sense of duty and responsibility. Furthermore, tan is associated with comfort, quality, harmony, and home.

VISION STATEMENT

YEMAYA is a New Jersey City University non-profit, non-religious organization under the auspices of the Black Administrators, Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Students Organization (BAAFSSO) and supported by The Lee Hagan Africana Studies Center. YEMAYA recognizes that women of African descent are women of vision, unified across our diversity and spirit. YEMAYA is committed in partnership to the respect for and celebration, evolution, promotion, and enforcement of our womanhood. Furthermore, it is a source of peer/professional support and information to develop leadership among women of African descent within the New Jersey City University community and elsewhere and to provide a voice for women of African descent who might not otherwise be heard.

MISSION STATEMENT

The primary focus of YEMAYA is to promote academic success and holistic wellness among women of African descent who are members of the New Jersey City University community—regardless of ethnicity, nationality or other differentiating characteristics.

OBJECTIVE

To empower, motivate, educate, and liberate by building bridges and links that will address concerns, which speak directly to the mental, physical, financial, social, spiritual, educational, and cultural needs of today's collegiate women of African descent via mediums such as clinics, workshops, lectures, seminars, and panel discussions.

YEMAYA'S GOALS

- To provide support for women of African descent to foster self-esteem, visibility, self acceptance, and empowerment
- To promote love, honor, camaraderie, and integrity among women of African descent in our communities and in our society
- To encourage and nurture educational assistance through mentoring and scholarships for women of African descent
- To communicate expectations of and encourage the fulfillment of members graduating with a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.75
- To support retention and graduation of women of African descent
- To aid in fostering personal and professional enrichment
- To offer community-based outreach which encompasses networking opportunities, social and cultural events, and economic awareness for women of African descent
- To produce and provide an annual egalitarian retreat or gathering to affirm the existence of women of African descent through a spiritual, social, and educational milieu

MEMBERSHIP

Membership into YEMAYA will be via an application process.

CALENDAR

THEME FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-08 – “THE MASK WE WEAR”

Thursday, September 13: Kick-Off Event (University/Club Day)

Wednesday, September 26: BAAFSSO New Student Welcome, 12p.m.-2:00p.m. H202

Wednesday, October 17: Breast Cancer Awareness Health Fair/Teach-In, 12p.m.–2:00p.m. H202

Thursday, October 18: Rhonda Berry Tribute, 3:00p.m.–5:00p.m. H202

Monday, October 29: Meeting, “In My Own Skin: Body Image and Self Esteem” 3:00p.m.–5:00p.m. Vodra Conference Room D

Monday, November 19: Meeting, “Time Management: Organizing for Academic Success” 3:00p.m.–5:00p.m. Vodra Conference Room D

Monday, December 10: Meeting, “The Devil Wears Prada, Not You” 3:00p.m.–5:00p.m. Vodra Conference Room D

Note: If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dr. Karen Ivy via email at kivy@njcu.edu or via phone at x2150 or contact Ms. Joy Smith via email at jsmith12@njcu.edu or via phone at x3469.