



# FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS A BETTER CHANCE

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# 2014

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*Welcome to our 41<sup>st</sup> academic year!*

*Dear Family and Friends,*

We are happy to be back and in full swing for the 2014-2015 academic year! The scholars and staff have hit the ground running. As a house we participated in the annual Fayetteville Festival, which gave our scholars the opportunity to share more about the ABC program on a personal level. This year, some of our scholars are volunteering at a local animal shelter called Helping Hounds. As a part of the volunteer requirements the girls participated in an application process, personal interview and orientation. They will be volunteering at least once a month for the remainder of the year.

As you know, the F-M ABC Program just celebrated 40 years of service. Scholars and staff had a wonderful time meeting alumnae and those who have supported the program over the years.

We closed out the month of October by attending Fright Night at the NYS Fairgrounds. This activity was a part of a new Scholar Welcome Committee, designed to connect new scholars with current scholars and other Fayetteville-Manlius High School students.

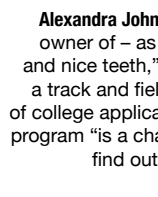
In house news, we welcomed two new RA's this year, Carshena Andrews and Cherisse Pittman. We are also thrilled with the new lounge and bedroom furniture in the house, which was made possible by a generous grant from the Emerson Foundation.

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Fayetteville-Manlius community for its continued support and dedication!

**La Rae M. Martin-Coore,**  
Resident Director



< **Kesi Rivera**, senior, from Harlem. She is in the midst of the college admissions process and is considering UNC-Chapel Hill, Davidson College, George Washington University, American University, and Vassar College. She's thinking about majoring in Anthropology or Psychology. She keeps busy as a co-captain of the FM Step Team and Vice President of FM Cares, a group that fosters community at the high school. "This year is going to be a crazy one, but I'm so excited for what it has in store!" Kesi was recently named as an Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program!



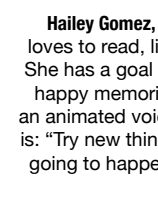
**Alexandra Johnson**, senior, from Harlem. Alex, the owner of – as she puts it – "translucent glasses and nice teeth," loves art and science, and is also a track and field athlete. She is now in the midst of college applications. Alex says that the FM ABC program "is a chance to explore and find yourself – find out who you are and what you want."



**Tanaja Stephenson**, junior, from Brooklyn. Tanaja loves art and immerses herself in drawing classes at FMHS; she is also interested in fashion design. Another passion for Tanaja is music, including playing the piano. She says, "I do not remember the last day I went without interaction with music of any kind." She is co-captain of FM's Step Team, and a creative writer in her spare time. Tanaja also has the goal of traveling the world, particularly Central and South America.



< **Jade Olusoji**, sophomore, from Bronx. Jade enjoys reading, swimming, and hanging out with friends. She's interested in pursuing a career in forensic science in the future. "I joined ABC to learn what it was like schooling in a new place, and to learn how to be independent."



**Hailey Gomez**, freshman, from Manhattan. Hailey loves to read, listen to music, and play the piano. She has a goal to graduate with great grades and happy memories. She is interested in becoming an animated voice actress in the future. Her motto is: "Try new things, even if you're scared of what's going to happen!" Thus, the ABC program is her "new challenge."



< **Naej Jones**, freshman, from Bronx. A brown belt in karate, an avid reader, and a hopeful future District Attorney, Naej is a multi-faceted young woman. She is grateful for the opportunities FM ABC provides her with: "There is a different culture here, and I like to learn in new and different ways and I want to get to know new people."



# 2014 Memorial and Tribute Gifts

## In Honor of:

**Janel Benson**  
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**Our Grandchildren – Faith, Joy, Donovan, and Danielle**  
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## REMINDER!

TopSpin 2014 in NYC on December 10! To buy tickets or learn about our biggest fundraiser please check out [topspincharity.com](http://topspincharity.com) or search #topspin2014.

## In Memory of:

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Donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to FMABC P.O. Box 355, Manlius, NY 13104 or on our website [www.fmabetterchance.org](http://www.fmabetterchance.org)



# 2014 Alumnae News for FMABC

## FM A Better Chance Turned 40!!

We celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program in style this fall, with events throughout the weekend of October 18-19, 2014. Starting with an Open House on Saturday, guests had the opportunity to tour the residence house and meet our current scholars, staff and others involved in the program. A cocktail reception which followed was attended by friends, supporters, board members, scholars, staff and many prominent members of our local community. The shining stars of this event were the many FM ABC alumnae who made a trip back to Manlius for this special occasion. A panel discussion lead by FM ABC Board Vice Chair Deborah Hermann gave scholars and guests a chance to hear the amazing personal stories of challenge, triumph and accomplishments of these accomplished graduates of the program. Alums who attended ranged from the class of 2010 all the way back to the class of 1984!

On Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> everyone gathered again and welcomed more guests at the FM ABC house for brunch. This informal gathering was a wonderful way to conclude an exciting and meaningful weekend for the program. It was especially moving for our current scholars to meet and get to know some of our alums. To talk with women who have gone on to achieve great things helped them to see the value in what they are doing, and empowered everyone to work hard and stay the course!



Some of the alumnae, in our newly furnished living room, with some of our current FMABC scholars.





Annette Miles with her children, Joshua and Lawren



Natasha Haynes-Smith Ali with her family.



Beth Hanson



Maribelle Ruiz Hernandez with her family

## Yvette Chevalier, Class of '79

I am a sole practitioner private practice attorney here in Las Vegas, Nevada. I mostly practice in family, contracts, administrative law, and real estate, and I do manage some criminal cases. I have a hobby of dog racing that is almost like another job. I race my whippets in lure coursing and the border collies in flyball dog racing. I have 6 grandchildren and my daughter just was married last week.

## Cind Senensieb, Class of '80

I was a professional Stage Manager in regional theatres throughout the US for over 18 years before “retiring” for a civilian life! I had my adult Bat Mitzvah after 9/11 and then very seriously considered becoming a Cantor, but instead found myself immersed in Jewish life as an administrator first at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and now at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in Manhattan. I met my partner, Jean, five years ago and we’re doing great!

## Tammy Rosado Gruenberg, Class of '84

I am currently a medical director at the Morris Heights Health Center in the Bronx, around the corner of where I lived when I went to FM-ABC. I got my Master’s in Public Health in October 2013 from Columbia School of Public Health and did a Policy Fellowship with the National Hispanic Medical Association.

Zachary, who turned 17 on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> is currently applying to colleges. Seth, who will be 13 in a few months, is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and is enjoying being on the volleyball team. Randy is working as an IT Procurement Consultant at Morgan Stanley and because of Hurricane Sandy and last year’s horrible winter has been working furiously on repairs to the outside of our home.

## Donna Graham Stewartson, Class of '84

I work for Boston Public Schools as a Development Director. Both my children are in High School and my husband is a Pastor of a church in Boston.

## Annette Miles, Class of '85

I had a fabulous time during Parents’ Weekend at Hotchkiss. My daughter Lawren is having a ball and has adjusted well to her new environment. The school is a perfect fit for her. Joshua is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader and misses his big sister, but doing well also. I am celebrating my 10<sup>th</sup> year with Kaiser.

We are all doing well and are blessed beyond belief.

## Natasha Haynes-Smith Ali, Class of '90

My little bundle is here! Julian Rasheed Ali was born on October 5<sup>th</sup>. His father and I are over the moon and it’s the icing on the cake of a whirlwind year. We were married in July in Miami. My ABC roommate Natasha (Forde) King was part of my small wedding celebration, and Amy, our RD, was the first person to send me some very thoughtful and useful (pampers) baby gifts. My ABC sisters are always in my heart.

## Alanna Forte-Bhoorasingh, Class of '98

I am very busy with clinical at NYU. I am finishing up my last year of the Nurse Anesthetist Program at Rutgers University. I can’t wait to finish and start working.

## Beth (Ingrid) Hanson, Class of '98

All is well with me and my family, here in NY. I’m still living in Long Island and working in Manhattan. I’m a Senior Copywriter at Ogilvy. I’ve been with the company for eight years now.

## Maribelle Ruiz Hernandez, Class of '02

The family and I relocated to Italy in May for a 3-year tour and we are loving it so far.



Marquise is now in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Cassidy began pre-school. European living has been a big adjustment but also a blessing. We've been taking advantage of the travel when we can. Please keep our family and all of our service brothers and sisters in your thoughts and prayers as we all continue to carry out our missions.

## Mildred Flores, Class of '04

I earned my Bachelor's in Finance in May from Mercy College. I still can't believe that part of my journey is complete; what a huge relief and accomplishment to finally have my degree. I started working on my MBA this summer and it's also going well. Jason continues to progress and meet the goals we've set for him. Work is good too. I miss you all.

## Amelia Stone, Class of '07

I received my Masters in Mathematics during the Spring of 2014 and have begun my fourth year at USC in pursuit of my PhD. If all goes as scheduled and the job market is good, I should complete my program during the Spring of 2016. My family is doing well; my older brother has a little daughter and a family now, my little brother is applying for colleges, and my little sister, Jessica, is studying for the SAT.

## Dorisol Inoa, Class of '09


I just finished my first year at Deloitte Consulting. I've had many interesting projects and was able to travel to London, the UK, and Dublin, Ireland. I also made personal trips while in Europe, including a trip to Amsterdam and Istanbul. Last month I got to go to Miami for the first time on my first real adult vacation! Now I'm back in New York, working and taking salsa dance classes in my free time.

## Sara Elzeini, Class of '14

The first month and a half of school has flown by, and I still cannot believe that I'm a college student. My life has been bombarded by a tremendous amount of work but also by loving faces from my new team: My Mother's Fleabag, which is the oldest comedy improv club at Boston College; its most esteemed alumni is Amy Poehler. I also joined Word of Mouth, a public speaking club and open forum for any type of discussion. Another club I joined is BC Slam, which allows my love for slam poetry to live on. I was also recently awarded the opportunity to serve on the Vice President's Student Advisory board, whose aim is to discuss school policies and student issues and to be one of the voices of the school. This has truly been an unforgettable ride, and I can't wait to keep driving.

## Nellie Hernandez, Class of '14

Here at Emory University, I am a part of Ngambika, which is a step team at Emory that ties together African culture, community service, and sisterhood. I also was featured in The Emory Wheel, our newspaper; a couple of other freshmen and I were chosen as some of the most promising candidates of the 1500-member Freshmen class.

I am planning on applying to a summer study abroad program to Morocco. I am still undecided in my major, however, I am thinking to go on the pre-law course while majoring in Psychology and maybe double minoring in Arabic and Philosophy. 



Amelia Stone



Dori Inoa at the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul



Shynise Stiff, FM Class of '10, Cornell Class of '14. Shy is off to Teach for America in Texas!



Kiya Hope, Class of '99



Sara Elzeini



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