



PDK FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER
Saturday, June 25, 2011

Rufus Tiefing Stevenson
Foundation Representative
Phi Delta Kappa – Chapter 1521
University of the District of Columbia

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Dear Kappans and Friends:

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, you are invited to a Phi Delta Kappa Foundation Fundraiser at my studio/home to support both PDK's Foundation annual drive and **Jah-Kente International, Inc.**—a 501 c3, since 2000 and member of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) since 2007. There will be two sessions of vending and sharing: 11:30 AM and 4:30 PM. The event is most accessible by taking the Metro—Georgia Avenue/Petworth Green Line.

At each session, author and Peace Corps volunteer **Kevin Lowther**, who assisted in the founding of Africare, will read from his new book The African-American Odyssey of John Kizell; author and genealogist **Roland C. Barksdale-Hall** will read from his children's book Lion Pride, and I will introduce my private collection of African Art, along with rendering a performance-reading of classic Harlem Renaissance poems. Please support these authors by purchasing their autographed copies (see attachment for more information on their bios).

To support this event, the Chapter has suggested a minimum, tax-deductible donation of \$50.00. You are requested to **RSVP** to indicate which session you will be attending; Kappans—especially—who are unable to attend are urged to mail their contribution to my home address, listed in the heading of this letter. Please make all checks or money orders payable to **PDK Chapter 1521**.

Thank you for your purposeful service and commitment in support of public, quality education.

Rufus T. Stevenson, Foundation Representative
Brenda Brown-Mangum, Interim President

PDK FUNDRAISER – BIOGRAPHIES OF THE PRESENTERS

June 25, 2011

Author **Kevin G. Lowther** is a returned Peace Corps volunteer who served in Sierra Leone, West Africa, from 1963 to 1965. He has been an organizer for **Africare, Inc.**, an humanitarian organization that supports development and relief programs throughout Africa. For thirty years, Lowther managed Africare's work in Southern Africa. Reading from his new book, The African-American Odyssey of John Kizell (2011), Lowther's research will shed insight into the mind of the enslaved South Carolinian who fought in the American Revolutionary War. As a former newspaper editor, Lowther has written on African issues for The Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, and other publications. He is also a co-author of Keeping Kennedy's Promise: The Peace Corps' Moment of Truth (1978).

Author and genealogist **Roland C. Barksdale-Hall**, will read from his second published, animated-colorful children's book, Lion Pride. His first children's book, Under African Skies (2010), has been well received. As a genealogist, Barksdale-Hall's work has received a number of stellar awards for its ability to minister to a people's needs to appreciate and understand their common origins. Barksdale-Hall presently serves as President of **Jah-Kente International, Inc.**

Kappan Rufus Tiefing Stevenson is a returned Peace Corps volunteer from Sierra Leone, West Africa, where he served from 1962 to 1965. Stevenson is also a former U.S. Diplomat who served in Africa and Europe. He is the **Founder and CEO of Jah-Kente International, Inc.** Stevenson will introduce his private collection of African Art (**The Tiefing Collection**). He will also read from an anthology of classical African-American poems from the Harlem Renaissance. The anthology includes the work of Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Margaret Walker, Richard Wright, Robert Hayden, Sterling Brown, and James Weldon Johnson--entitled ***Redemption Ritual: Inviting the Ancestors to be Present***. The anthology was compiled by the late **Douglass Johnson (Sincere Thunder Namefree)**.