



## *Tomorrow Beings Today* Contributors



**Dorothy Irene Height** is widely recognized and honored as one of the great civil rights and women's rights leaders of contemporary history and has spent decades providing inspiration and leadership to countless organizations in the struggle for equality and human rights for all people. As president of the National Council of Negro Women for forty years, Dr. Height led an ongoing crusade for justice, opportunity, and dignity for women and Black families. In the 1960s, Height placed the NCNW on an action course of issue-oriented politics, leading the civil rights movement for voting rights and desegregated education. In the following decades, she labored tirelessly to provide hope to Black women and their families, and to increase the status of all women in our society.

Dr. Height has been the recipient of more than twenty honorary degrees and fifty awards honoring her decades of outstanding public service. In 1994, Dr. Height was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. In 2004, to mark her ninety-second birthday, she received the Congressional Gold Medal.



**Cheryl R. Cooper** joined the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) as executive director in June 2002. Prior to coming to NCNW, Cooper was chief of staff for AARP. Before joining AARP, she served as the administrator of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Cooper has also worked for the Coastal Corporation and PricewaterhouseCoopers. A certified public accountant, Cooper's commitment to her community has allowed her to serve with distinction on numerous boards, including the Washington Convention Center Authority and the Ellington Fund (Duke Ellington School for the Arts), the advisory board of the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, the Board of Governors of the D.C. Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors and as treasurer, board of directors, of the D.C. Institute for Mental Health.



**Valorie Burton** is a sought-after life coach, speaker, and author of *What's Really Holding You Back?*, *Listen to Your Life* and *Rich Minds, Rich Rewards*. She is the former co-host of *The Potter's Touch* with Bishop T.D. Jakes. Burton founded and later sold her own public relations firm and was named one of the nation's thirty rising stars in public relations by *PR Week Magazine* in 2000. Today, through her writing and speaking, Burton lives her passion for helping women claim more fulfilling lives. She lectures and coaches entrepreneurs who have created multi-million-dollar businesses and professionals seeking a more purposeful path. As a columnist for Tom Joyner's *BlackAmericaWeb.com*, Burton motivates the site's one million weekly visitors. She also serves as the "resident" life coach for Washington, D.C.'s WPGC-AM (HEAVEN 1580) radio station.



**Mellody Hobson** is president of Ariel Capital Management, LLC—a Chicago-based investment management firm founded in 1983. With over \$21 billion in assets under management, the firm manages separate accounts for institutional clients and also serves individual investors and 401(k) plans through its no-load Ariel Mutual Funds. In her capacity as President, Hobson is responsible for firm-wide management and strategic planning. She is a graduate of Princeton University where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of International Relations and Public Policy.



**Kendra Lee**, an award-winning writer, has been a professional journalist and editor specializing in health issues for nearly two decades. As the principal of K.Lee Editorial Consultants, she has served a wide range of editorial clients, including the National Medical Association, the Office of Minority Health, and the Health Resources Services Administration. Lee is a contributing editor to *The Crisis*, *Heart & Soul*, and *Upscale* magazines and a former staff editor at *YSB*. Her writing has appeared in *Essence*, *Baltimore*, *FT.com*, and *NiaOnline.com*. Lee has been a contributing writer to three books: *Like a Natural Woman*, *Dr. Ro's Ten Secrets to Livin' Healthy*, and the fiction collection *One Hand in My Pocket*.



**Dr. Vivian W. Pinn** is the first full-time Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an appointment she has held since November 1991. In February 1994, she was named Associate Director for Research on Women's Health, NIH. Dr. Pinn came to NIH from Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C., where she had been Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathology since 1982, and has previously held appointments at Tufts University and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Pinn received her B.A. from Wellesley College in Massachusetts, and M.D. from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in 1967, where she was the only woman and minority in her class. Dr. Pinn is a member of long standing in many professional and scientific organizations and served as the 88th President of the National Medical Association (and second woman president) during the year 1989-1990.



**Sheryl Hilliard Tucker** is an Editor at Large at Time Inc., the parent company of more than 150 magazines worldwide. She was formerly an Executive Editor of Time Inc.'s *Money* magazine, the nation's premier investing and personal finance publication and the former Editor-in-Chief and Vice President of *Black Enterprise*, the nation's leading magazine on African American business. Tucker is a consultant to the National Football League Players Association's Financial Advisory Program, helping improve the financial literacy of NFL players. Tucker has an outstanding reputation as a journalist, researcher, public speaker, and seminar leader in the areas personal finance, entrepreneurship, career development and women's health.

Tucker has edited several books, including *Prime Time: The African American Woman's Complete Guide to Midlife Health and Wellness* and *The New Money Book of Personal Finance*. She has served on the board of the American Society of Magazine Editors.



**Iyanla** (pronounced Ee-Yan-La) **Vanzant**, hailed as among the "most dynamic African American speakers in the country" by *Emerge* magazine, is a nationally recognized inspirational speaker devoted to showing others the way to transform their lives. Committed to a message based on principles of divine power and self-determination, Vanzant is a bestselling author, ordained minister and lawyer and has received numerous awards and accolades for her work. The founder and Executive Director of Inner Visions Spiritual Life Maintenance Network, Vanzant conducts perennial workshops and lectures to thousands around the country hoping to inspire each listener to take a stand and create a better life, a better community, and a better world. Vanzant appears on NBC's *Starting Over* as a life coach.



**Cheryl Woodruff**, a publishing pioneer, award-winning editor and former publishing executive and project editor, spent two decades at Ballantine Books, a division of Random House, Inc. where she edited countless titles across the hardcover, trade paperback, and mass-market lists. In 1991, Woodruff became one of the highest-ranking African Americans in book publishing as the founding editor, vice-president, and associate publisher of Ballantine's One World imprint, the first multicultural imprint established at a mainstream publishing house. Under her guidance, One World received wide critical acclaim and published such national bestselling authors as Bebe Moore Campbell, Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., Herb Boyd, Connie Briscoe, Cristina Garcia, Colin Channer, and Queen Afua. In 2003, she launched Cheryl Woodruff Communications, LLC, a publishing consulting firm.