

My Time Has Come

Promotes tolerance to racial, cultural, ethnic and generational differences.

Fosters a sense of belonging, accomplishment and pride gained from the creation of well-executed culturally inspired works of art.

Develops skills in the use of hand-crafted textile designs, contemporary and multi-cultural visual arts techniques.

Encourages participants to appreciate the contribution their respective cultural practices and customs subscribe to the richness of the world.

Increases knowledge, understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage.

Cultivates and improves interpersonal relationships and fosters a sense of well-being.

Enhances effectiveness of human service programs.

August 13, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Long Island Educational Opportunity Center/SUNY Farmingdale, I would like to endorse the "My Time Has Come" program as an academic, cultural and social competency supplement to any organization that is seeking to nurture and foster learning in the technology, art and math subject areas.

The creator of the "My Time Has Come" program, Madona Cole-Lacy, was responsible for the development and implementation of a program for us that serviced the Amityville School District for the 2009-2010 school year. Her ability to blend the elements of math, science and technology into an exciting program for elementary students was only superseded by her extreme care and concern for the welfare of students in general. Ms. Cole-Lacy provided this academic enrichment program with stimulating activities and sought out to showcase each student for his/her accomplishments. She prepared her students for presentations and enabled them to gain confidence through knowledge demonstrated in several program events. Young students enthusiastically communicated with confidence and poise the nature of their exploration and culminating projects to adults and groups.

As the coordinator of this New York State funded project, I found Ms. Cole-Lacy to be an advocate for children and an eager team player who assisted in reaching and often exceeding the necessary elements required by the program's funding sources. It is hoped that we can join forces again to promote learning and foster social and cultural competencies.

Sincerely,



Marian Nelson



Coat of Many Cultures™ THIS COAT IS 'LIKE A BOOK' A visible joining of cultures Rhoda Amon, Newsday Staff Writer December 10, 2006 For full-size article, go to <http://www.mytimehascome.org/events.html>

THIS COAT IS 'LIKE A BOOK'

A visible joining of cultures

From around the world to around LI, seniors create art

BY RHODA AMON
STAFF WRITER

Madona Cole-Lacy is sewing her "Coat of Many Cultures" — and its message — on the road.
More than a fabric design, it's a celebration of cultural diversity, the story of the over-sized, 76-inch-tall garment, which is displayed on the Glen Cove Public Library. Next month it moves to the North Billerose library, and in February to the East Meadow library.

Cole-Lacy, a Westchester based textile artist and fashion designer, got help with her "Coat" from members of the Salvation Army Freeport Senior Center, who contributed a panel each depicting his or her cultural heritage.

Although the title suggests the biblical Joseph's Coat of Many Colors, Cole-Lacy's idea was to weave together "the richness of many different traditions and customs so you could read the coat like a book," she said. The coat consists of 10 different panels.

Memories, memories

The sewers were encouraged to let their imaginations run free and to express their memories, often with somewhat ritualistic motifs.
Lorena Edwards, 81, who grew up in a Puerto Rican neighborhood in Jamaica, Jamaica, described her panel with vibrant colors and patterns.
Zelline Lowe, 77, created a vibrant collage of the green, brown and gold of the native fruit, lime, banana, a Jamaican flag, sugar cane and a coconut tree. Add more Jamaican and religious symbols by Francis Hundley, 88, an Italian scene by Amy Hetzel, 80, Tang Tai and other Egyptian images by Mary Yasudi, 81, and an African West Indian jungle fantasy by Juanita Dash Kambalika, 93, whose father was West Indian Portuguese and her mother African American Native American.

Many of the sewers didn't know they could draw, much less paint, on fabric, said Cole-Lacy, who taught five art workshops at the senior center, operated in cooperation with the Nassau County Department of Senior Citizens Affairs. Fabric and materials were provided by Cole-Lacy with a \$2,000 grant from a JPMorgan Chase program administered by the Huntington Arts Council.

"Most didn't know they



Madona Cole-Lacy with the "Coat of Many Cultures" she created, along with seniors in Freeport

were artistic," Cole-Lacy said. The work, she said, raised the seniors' self-esteem as well as showcasing pride in their heritage. After completing a panel, one sewer told her, "Now I feel like an artist."

Everyone seemed to feel like an artist at a reception for 180 guests at the Freeport Recreation Center this fall, where the Coat of Many Cultures was unveiled. "Madona energized them," said Fran Peters, the senior program director. "People started talking about their ethnic backgrounds and we saw what a very diverse community we are."

"Many of us never had the opportunity to talk about our backgrounds," said Capt. Amanda Lambilla, corps officer with her husband, Capt. Campbell Lambilla, of the Salvation Army Community Center in Freeport. Inspired by the project, she said, the seniors "talked about how their grandparents came to the United States and what life was like for them."

For Cole-Lacy, perhaps the most poignant contributors were her parents, Christian and Evelyn Cole, who came from Sierra Leone in West Africa. Evelyn Cole, 83, who founded a pre-primary school in her native village of West-

ern Sierra Leone, incorporated a photo of her daughter scanned onto fabric.

Christian Cole, 86, is a retired architect of ornamental studios at the University of Sierra Leone. Cole-Lacy came to the United States in 1979, after completing high school in Sierra Leone. She got her master's in art education from Brooklyn College and quickly found her niche as a designer of Madona Cole Originals, one-of-a-kind wearable art, hand-painted, dyed or silk-screened scarfs, dresses, shirts, coats, handbags, neckties, pillows and wall art.

The Westchester artist, who reared her children, Samuel, 14, and Madison, 12, as a single mother, was married in 2004 to singer guitarist James Lacy, who works with her on educational programs.

A passion for education

Her passion, she said, has always been educating through art and motivating others to be creative. Her Web site, www.madonacole.com, promotes "tolerance to racial, ethnic, and generational differences."

"Art breaks down barriers," she said.

So does food. The reception at the Freeport Recreation Center ended with food of

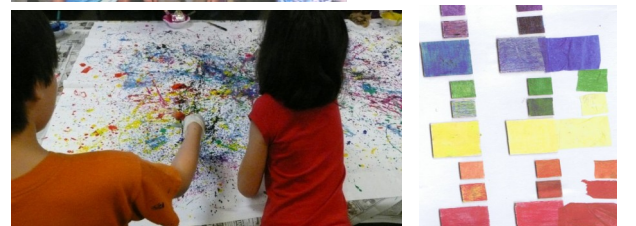
many cultures. Although the quilt's creator an art panel, Lorena Edwards, 81, of Freeport

contributed the biggest contributions to the reception feast, providing dishes such as pork, chicken and calabash and ackee, a fruit from her native Jamaica. Local restaurants also contributed their ethnic specialties.

Cole-Lacy is now seeking other grants and other community groups interested in creating Coats of Many Cultures. The art project is also an effective tool for teaching children an appreciation of diversity, she says.

"It fosters a sense of belonging and accomplishment. They learn it," says Cole-Lacy, who will teach "Creating Art With African Textiles" in a children's program celebrating Black History Month in February at the Glen Cove Library.

Cole-Lacy also will appear with her Coat of Many Cultures at a "Meet the Artist" reception at 2 p.m. Dec. 17 at the Glen Cove Library. For more information, contact Cole-Lacy at 516-783-9178 or e-mail her at madonacole@madonacole.com.



ART-RELATED CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS



My aim is to use art, culture and education as a vehicle through which society can develop and maintain self-esteem, as well as cultivate racial/ethnic and generational tolerance."

Madona Cole-Lacy, M.A. Ed

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- American patriotic songs

(516) 783-9178 madona@mytimehascome.org



Madona Cole-Lacy, M.A. Ed.
Program Director/Facilitator

Artist, educator and designer of wearable art Madona Cole-Lacy, is the founder of My Time Has Come™ Program which is the cultural arts and outreach component of her wearable art business, Madona Cole Originals™. My Time Has Come™ enrichment programs combine art, fashion and the awareness of cultural diversity, as well as personal development, to emphasize the significance of art and culture as a mechanism to break down barriers and maintain self-esteem. Even though the artist takes full advantage of her extensive professional teaching experience and skills gained from working with at-risk youth, juvenile delinquents, special education, gifted youth, parents and teachers; it is her passion to motivate, educate and inspire others that is the driving force behind her effective workshops.

Mrs. Cole-Lacy was born in Sierra Leone, West-Africa and studied art and Graphic design in both England and the U.S. She obtained her M.A. Ed. from Brooklyn College, New York. She is married to James

Lacy, the Mental Health Director of My Time Has Come, and has two adolescent children and a young adult step-daughter.



James A. Lacy, LCSW
Mental Health Director



Mr. Lacy, is a skilled psychotherapist with 30 years of experience as an administrator and supervisor of human service programs. He has provided counseling for Individuals, families, and groups; and provides staff and program development consultations to agencies and organizations.

In addition to his human services professional background, Mr. Lacy is an accomplished singer, song writer and acoustical guitarist who offers culturally enriching concerts, and is often called upon to perform at church and organizational functions. He facilitates My Time Has Come™ by addressing emotional and personal development issues through its program.