

# CELEBRATE - CONNECT

## WITH FRIENDS FROM THE GULF COAST DURING A NIGHT OF STORIES AND CULTURE

COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF SHARING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR GULF COAST SURVIVORS OF HURRIANCES KATRINA AND RITA.

WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008 AT 7PM

WHERE: MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH (50 E. 7<sup>TH</sup> ST., MANHATTAN)

### Discussion Leaders and Performers



**Sharon Hanshaw**, a native of Biloxi, Mississippi, founded Coastal Women for Change (CWC) in 2006 with the support of the faithful few and funding from the 21st Century Foundation. CWC, consisting of a diverse group of women in age, culture, and ethnicity, promotes financial literacy for people receiving disaster assistance and insurance money and advocates for Mississippi Gulf Coast residents living in confined trailer housing on the physical and mental health hazards. Long term, CWC seeks to become the model of grassroots involvement across the Mississippi gulf coast and long term community planning with significant input in the City Counselor's and Mayor's offices.

Mrs. Hanshaw has three daughters who are also very active and instrumental in community efforts. Along with working within CWC, they are active members of the local NAACP chapter. With her daughter and 2 grandchildren at her side, Mrs. Hanshaw is ensuring that the family's service to community is being carried on.

Joetta Rogers, a native of Mobile, Alabama now living in New York City, has been active in the New York Solidarity Coalition for Katrina/Rita survivors since the 2005 when she evacuated to New York after Hurricane Katrina.

Eliza B, a native of New Orleans now living in New York, is a spoken word artist and will be performing her art during the evening



Music by the **Middle Church Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir (MCJJGC)**, which has been in existence since 1986 and is made up of a group of diverse, dynamic and committed singers. The MCJJGC pushes the boundaries of singing gospel music as an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming group that is dedicated to excellence. The music of the Gospel choir is "stunningly electric" taking from both traditional and contemporary gospel as well as some spirituals that have been "remixed". The gospel choir in April 2008 made its first trip of many to the Gulf Coast and performed at Covenant House, Ebenezer Baptist church, St. John's #5 Faith Church in New Orleans



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