

# Biographies

## **Kathy Grant - President of KGM Enterprises & Host of Gospel Groove**

Ottawa trailblazer and Canada's First Lady of Gospel, entrepreneur and philanthropist, she is the Founder of the Canadian Gospel Music Conference (CGMC), VOW (Valiant Orleans Women) Awards, Founder of the MLK Gospel Tribute and the First Gospel Artist to raise record food donations for the Ottawa Food Bank. The first Ottawa Gospel artist to be nominated for a YMCA/YWCA Woman of Distinction Award. She has sung in cities across North America, Jamaica and Europe.

## **Johnny Blanks—V.P. KGM Enterprises**

Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1980, he began his entertainment career in New York City, building a solid reputation in the music business, as a Leading man in three Off-Broadway musicals; associated with labels such as Arista, Bad Boy & Motown (to name a few). Presented with a Public Proclamation from the Mayor of Mt. Vernon for honorable contributions and achievements as a Motivational Speaker, Entertainer and Youth Development Coordinator.

## **Vanessa London & the London Trio +**

This family has found a musical niche for service to Ottawa and cities all over North America and the Caribbean and is committed to bringing hope and inspiration to all of their listeners through Christ centered music.

**Cathy Goddard** Blessed with the gift of communication, Cathy uses humor and her big voice to touch peoples' hearts with laughter and tears. Her anointed ministry is helping her listeners to face their darkest days with perseverance and hope for the future. Cathy has sung and shared her story across Canada, the Netherlands, Spain and Australia.

**Jeannie Hunter and the Brookfield High School World Voices Choir** Brookfield High School World Voices Choir directed by Jeannie Hunter is a group that seeks to combine excellence in performance with a love of world music and a passion for global citizenship. Major performances for United Way, the Senate, and the RCMP Musical Ride, have spurred them towards their second CD, entitled, 'We Have A Dream'.

**Harmonia Choir** Formed in 2003 by Artistic Director Kurt Ala-Kantii, Harmonia Choir has quickly established itself with a solid reputation of performing a broad range of repertoire focusing on local and Canadian composers. The choir is comprised of 40 members from the Ottawa area and surrounding environs.

**Oni the Hatian Sensation** The first Canadian woman to tour the European slam poetry circuit, Oni has performed for audiences in Europe, Australia, Canada and the U.S. She directed Canada's first National Poetry Slam, the Canadian Spoken Wordlympics, and has curated for the Ottawa International Writers Festival. Oni is a social activist who was nominated for Ottawa's YWCA Women of Distinction Award. Born in Montreal, she lives in Ottawa.

**Prosper & GPM** One of the most dynamic inspirational groups on the Canadian forefront is Ottawa's own. With their current release 'B.A.D. Reloaded', Prosper cloaks the message of Hip Hop in a garment everyone can wear.

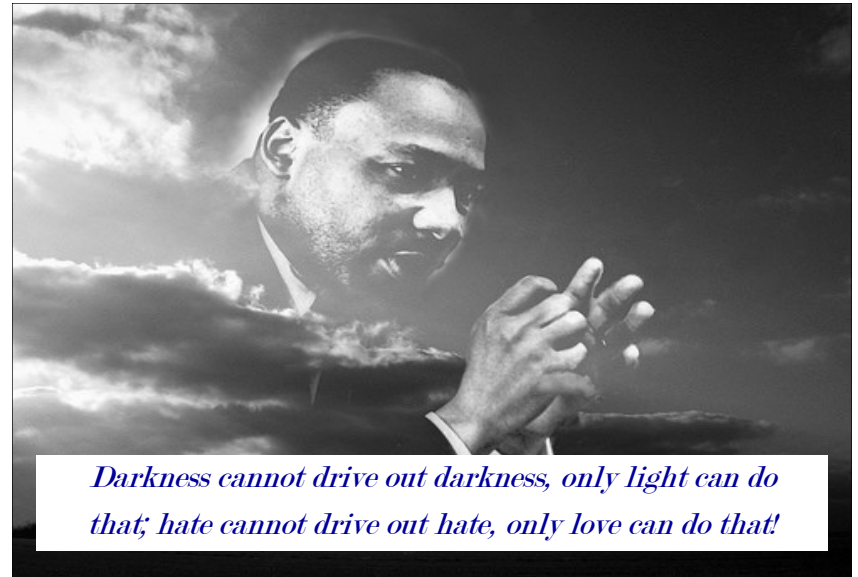
**Samantha Testa** Montreal native and Ottawa resident, Samantha's impressive performances for Ottawa Baseball, Ottawa 67's and the Canadian National Women's Hockey Championships, belie her youthful 17 years. Samantha was this year's winner of the Kitchener Ontario Idol and the opening act on the main stage at the Kitchener Bluesfest!

**Dwight Grant—Mellow-Dee** With soothing sounds of soul / jazz and an updated style that captivates diverse audiences around the globe, Mellow Dee sizzles. If you like the music of John Legend and Jamie Fox, with an Oscar Peterson feel, you'll Love Mellow Dee.

**Angela Rozman** Angela Rozman is a psychology student at the University of Ottawa. Performing since the age of 13, she has sung at many events throughout the Ottawa area such as the Ex, the Tulip Festival, Canada Day Festivities, sports games and fairs. Angela is the 2009 Kiwanis Idol, and the Canggih Country Singing Competition Champion.

# Yasmin Ratansi M.P. for Don Valley East & The Canadian Martin Luther King Day Coalition

Present...



*Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that; hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that!*

*Inspiration on the Hill*

*2010*

Monday January 18, 2010  
Parliament Hill, West Block  
Room 200

# Biographies

## Senator Mobina Jaffer



Mobina Jaffer was born in Uganda and educated in both England and Canada. She holds a bachelor of laws degree (LL.B.) from London University in England and completed the Executive Development Program at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. She was the first East Indian woman to practice law in British Columbia.

Ms. Jaffer's record of achievement is extensive and she has been noted for her work in the areas of equality and justice for women of color, and the struggle to end violence against all women.

Her appointment to the Senate in 2001 represented many changes on Parliament Hill: she became the first Muslim to sit in the Canadian Senate. She is also the first African born Senator, and the first Senator of South-Asian descent. She wears these honors with pride, and her time in the Senate has focused on issues involving immigrant communities and minority women, as well as human and language rights. She has also worked extensively on anti-terrorism and social cohesion issues Canada has faced since September 11th.

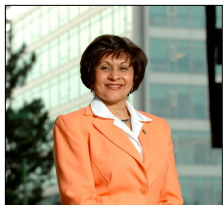
## Grandfather Elder William Commanda



Alonquin Elder William Commanda from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, Maniwaki, Quebec was born on November 11, 1913.

A respected spokesman and spiritual leader at many conferences, participates in United Nations peace and spiritual vigils, his work is acknowledged nationally and internationally. Fully trilingual, he shares his words and prayers in Algonquin, and translates them into English and French. Central to Elder Commanda's teachings are the concepts of equality, balance, respect and responsibility for Mother Earth, for all life forms and for people of all racial and cultural backgrounds, and he works ceaselessly, alone and entirely without an organization, staff, structure, formal or financial support to animate the Circle of All Nations.

## Yasmin Ratansi, M.P. Don Valley East



First elected to the House of Commons in 2004, Yasmin now serves as the **Chair of the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Estimates**. Prior to this, Ms. Ratansi served as the National Revenue Critic. During her tenure in Parliament, Ms. Ratansi has been privileged to serve on a number of Parliamentary Standing Committees.

In recognition of her dedication and services, Yasmin has received awards from both community organizations and professional bodies.

# Program

## DreamKeepers Awards and Inspirational Presentation

Welcome from Hosts  
U.S. National Anthem  
Canadian National Anthem  
Moment of Silence  
Ms. Yasmin Ratansi  
Greetings from the Christian Leader  
**Inspirational Presentation by Ottawa's Finest**

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Return of the Hosts  
Greetings from the Muslim Leader  
Greetings from the CMLKDC  
Introduction of Grandfather Elder William Commanda  
Award Presentation to Grandfather Elder William Commanda  
A Word from the Ontario Premier  
Introduction of Senator Mobina Jaffer  
Award Presentation to Sen. Mobina Jaffer  
Musical Tribute  
Greetings from the Rabbi  
**Re-introduction of Kathy Grant**

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Closing Remarks

Sarah Onyango & Rev. Darryl Gray  
Mr. Johnny Blanks  
Ms. Angela Rozman  
In recognition of the victims in Haiti  
MP Don Valley East  
Rev. Jacques Kabangu  
Samantha Testa  
Cathy Goddard  
Vanessa London & London Trip Plus  
Mr. Johnny Blanks - VP KGM Enterprises  
Kathy Grant  
Oni the Hatian Sensation  
Prosper & Melissa Legerre

Sarah Onyango & Rev. Darryl Gray  
Imam Dr. Zijad Delic  
Daniel Stringer  
Cpl. Wayne Russett

Rev. Darryl Gray

Yassir Naqvi, M.P.P.  
Sen. Terry Mercer  
Daniel Stringer  
Cathy Goddard  
Rabbi Ely Braun  
Sarah Onyango & Rev. Darryl Gray  
Oni The Hatian Sensation  
Vanessa London & Trio +  
Samantha Testa  
Prosper & GPM  
Kathy Grant  
World Voices Choir & Harmonia Choir

Mr. Johnny Blanks— VP KGM Enterprises  
Sarah Onyango & Rev. Darryl Gray

## Special Thanks

Yasmin Ratansi, MP, Don Valley East  
KGM Enterprises  
CPAC  
Dreemkeepers  
Staff of MP, Yasmin Ratansi  
RCMP - Red Serge  
Volunteers and technical associates