

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you to all the volunteers who made this even possible. This includes all our volunteer models, make-up artists, photographers, bartenders and coordinators who came together to help move our community forward.

### FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE

Inga Kim (Chair), Patricia Msaka (Assistant Chair), Margaret Perakis (Project Manager)

### SACU BOARD

Directors: Jeranimo Augusto (Social/Events), Nadine Gauldino (Finance/Fundraising), Sitinga Kachipande (Marketing/PR), Siyanda Masiza (Finance/Fundraising), Lisa Netha (Social/Events), Rachel Nghiwete (Executive, Administration/Operations), Margaret Perakis (Administration/Operations), Mimmy Polan (Social/Events), Iddy Sandaly (Finance/Fundraising), Omega Tawonezvi (Administration/Operations), Cassandra Sibanda (Marketing/PR)

### Legal Advisor:

Tim Gaughran

### ADVISORY BOARD

Nkope Hayford, Daniel Koroma, Constance Mann, Mwiza Munthali, Victor Miller

### Fashion Team:

Make-Up and Hair: Akua Johnson, Stacey Agyepong, Harmina Simms, Rita Drayton, Raychell Jones, Darvincea Warner

### Photography:

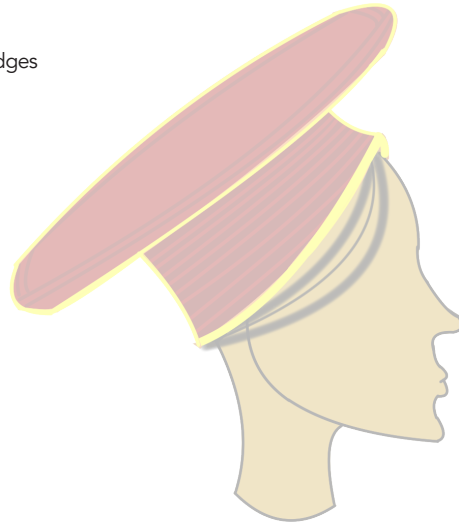
Photographer & Videographer: Khanyiso Mgqolozana; Harry Ondao Jr-Ondao Photography; Mkuzo with One-Too-Many photography

### Music:

Disc Jockey: "DJ Samp Deap"- Gerald Hodges

### Graphics & Illustrations:

Flyer Designer: Tara Kachipande-Thindwa  
Program Designer/Illustrator: Ashley Slade



## LETTER FROM SACU BOARD

Dear Southern Africans and Friends,

The idea behind Southern African Reunion weekend is to unite Southern Africans and to celebrate our common Southern African culture and heritage. As such, Southern African Community USA (SACU) hosted its inaugural "union" weekend in 2013 in order for Southern Africans to meet as a community. In the following year, SACU began to host annual reunion weekends for the same purpose. Since then, Southern African Reunion weekend has grown and attracts visitors from across the Washington DC area and USA. It is the largest gathering of Southern Africans in the USA.

Our aim is to provide a platform where we can highlight the unique sights and sounds of Southern Africa throughout the events planned for the reunion weekend. Our events during the past weekends have included such diverse events such as a football (soccer) tournament, netball tournament, professional networking event, flag party, and fashion show.

The Southern African Fashion Show is a new addition to the reunion weekend. It provides an opportunity for both established and up-and-coming designers from Southern Africa and its Diaspora to promote Southern African style and aesthetics.

In the 1960s, Algerian born designer, Yves Saint Laurent dedicated a fashion line to fellow Somali model Iman, thereby introducing African fashion to global popular culture. This opened up the world of African aesthetics to western designers for the first time who soon incorporated African prints in their clothing lines. Once again, we are witnessing a renewal of interest in African fashion on the global stage. This time however, it has been accompanied by a stronger African voice and an explosion of African born talent.

The designers that were selected tonight, are part of this new movement in African fashion. They are bringing African aesthetics to the world and redefining what it means for fashion to be "African". Our designers also define what it means to be Southern African – a region comprising 15 diverse countries with multiple religions, ethnicities, languages and culture. Their designs express the diversity in our region and capture the pulse of Southern Africa.

We hope that you support the work of these designers and the entertainers that have volunteered tonight who make up some of Southern Africa's finest cultural ambassadors. Thank You for supporting SACU in our efforts to move our communities forward, together. It is an honor to welcome you here and we hope you have a great evening.

Sincerely,  
Board of Directors,  
Southern African Community USA



## ENTERTAINERS

### Entertainer 1 – ZimUniq (Zimbabwe)

ZimUniq is a duo consisting of Zimbabwean born Natasha and Tapiwa. Based in Silver Spring, Maryland, they recently they channeled their love for dance into ZimUniq and perform for audiences in the DC metro area.

### Entertainer 2 – Mphasto Matenda (Malawi)

Mphasto Matenda is from Blantyre, Malawi but was raised in the United States, England and Canada. She considers herself a part of this great African 'Diaspora'. She has an honors degree in Africa Studies and Political Science and works in development. She enjoys writing poetry, painting and making music. As a passionate youth advocate, she is here today to share a poem on youth, Africa and togetherness.

### Entertainer 3 – Leo na Leo Next Generation (Tanzania & Uganda)

Leo na Leo Next Generation is a dynamic dance group consisting of a duo from Tanzania and Uganda. They bring the unique rhythms from the easternmost part of Southern Africa.

### Entertainer 4 – Mai Afrofusion Dance Fitness by Tsiti (Zimbabwe)

Originally from Zimbabwe, Mai has always had a passion for dancing and currently teaches African dance classes in Brooklyn, NY. In 2002 she joined Fung Africa, a song Dance Company and where she performed some Southern African movement dances. She also danced with Fusha, a dance company and where she performed various Brazilian, Caribbean and Congolese dances.

## VENDORS

**Intombi Beads:** Ubhulhalu is originally from South Africa. Based in New York City she is selling hand-made beaded jewelry. #Isuntu #Ubuntu

**SEDA:** SEDA by Alicia Madlala is selling handcrafted items. SEDA is an agency of the Department of Small Business Development in South Africa that represents a multitude of small business ventures. Contact: madlala09@hotmail.com.

**A Ban Against Neglect (ABAN):** Vanessa Mndolo is selling items for ABAN. They break the cycle of poverty among young mothers in Ghana by helping them empower themselves and their communities, and teaching them how to nurture their families and the environment. See [www.aban.org](http://www.aban.org) for details.

**Cut Loose Fashions:** Fashion vendor Bellorh Byrom is selling jewelry, clothes, shoes, bags and other accessories with bright and bold colors. Contact: mybelle01@comcast.net, 703-864-8056.

**Ekhaya Designs:** Ekhaya Designs by Felicia Majola is a boutique style place where you will find everything nice, something unique, something for your home, and more. Contact: [ekhayadesigns@gmail.com](mailto:ekhayadesigns@gmail.com).

**LeChic by Sandychiccouture:** This vendor is selling West African clothes that are the latest style that can be worn in summer or fall. Contact: [sandychiccouture@gmail.com](mailto:sandychiccouture@gmail.com); Instagram: @sandychiccouture.

**C Sapulene Creates (Malawi):** Matenje creates custom hand crafted keepsakes decor items out of wood and other materials and uses African scenery designs. She also sells crochet wear. Contact: [jcsapulenecreates@gmail.com](mailto:jcsapulenecreates@gmail.com)

## DESIGNERS

### Gaynor Khan & Margaret Perakis (South Africa)

Gaynor Khan was born with a keen eye for fashion in South Africa and moved to the U.S. in 2004. A graduate of North West School of Design in Klerksdorp, she was awarded the schools coveted 'Best Designer of the Year' prize. Khan was also invited to showcase her work at the Young Designers Emporium in Johannesburg. Her creativity is guided by Coco Chanel's quote, "a woman should be two things: classy and fabulous". She keeps this mantra in mind as she creates her African inspired designs which are elegant and stunning. She is currently focused on pediatric nursing with a concentration in neonatal care and early-childhood development. She is also a co-host for Southern African Connection, SACU sponsored show that promotes southern African people, places and events in the Washington DC area. Ms. Khan most enjoys the great conversations and community service that comes with good journalism. The collection is a collaboration with Margaret Perakis, a South African born teacher who began sewing at a young age as a result of helping her mother sew or knit sweaters for customers in South Africa. Perakis enjoyed making her own outfits at an early age and her love for traditional outfits was inspired by her mother. Perakis still has that strong sense of promoting South African contemporary and traditional outfits in the U.S. She takes great pride in showcasing her culture and encourages South Africans in the U.S to be proud of their culture.

### Vuvu Stone Collection (Zambia)

VuVu Stone Collection was founded in 2007 by Betty Phiri Chibwe & Oliver Chibwe. They wanted to create a fashion brand that provided the unique touch of exquisite, elegant couture fashion with a touch of Africa. Their aim is to always leave a lasting mental and emotional emanation with their fashion statement. They are therefore meticulous in their color selection and often make use of dramatic colors in their pieces. Their vision is to customize the outfits for their customers based on their own color preferences and the customer needs. Therefore they are concerned with using long-lasting quality fabric which guarantees the durability of their garments. Their pieces are also timeless therefore they can be worn beyond a single fashion season. They hold that dressing up or looking good is more than a physical satisfaction - it also builds confidence, self-esteem and assists in healing and elevating the mind and soul to the higher VuVu. More information can be found at: [www.vuvustone.com](http://www.vuvustone.com)

### AlmazAfrika (Zimbabwe)

AlmazAfrika is a brand that grew out of the realization that African print is a statement - it is a statement of our heritage and culture. The brand is the founded by two childhood best friends from Zimbabwe who wanted to create a versatile brand with a clothing line that was enjoyable, fun, and practical. Their aim was to design clothes that were accessible to everyone and that made every woman look their very best - they believe that everyone "deserves the very best". The clothes in their collection tonight are designed by Almaz Mahati and are manufactured by skilled Zimbabwean tailors who also need a boost in their lives. All of their tailors were women seeking to empower themselves through their work and provide for their families. Every garment from this brand is made from Zimbabwe with love.

### iZaura by Mothusi Lesolle (Botswana)

Lesolle is a well celebrated Fashion Designer, Stylist, Publicist and Creative thinker with a vast experience in Fashion and Lifestyle both in Botswana and Africa. His brand, iZaura has grown to become a notable brand in Botswana. Although he studied political science and public administration in college, Lesolle had long been immersed in the local fashion industry as part of the team that organizes the annual "Colour in the Desert Fashion Week" in Botswana. He produced his first collection under iZaura, in 2012. The brand embodies haute couture women's fashion targeting diverse women with different body types. iZaura is known for its originality, simplicity, elegance and class which speaks and celebrates the modern woman. Lesolle's style is bold and he is always willing to take a chances and evolve the brand. He posits that his clothing line complements the evolution of the fashion industry. Lesolle's personal style and appreciation for the fashion industry earned him recognition as a renowned award-winning stylist in Botswana.

### Vitu Ngwira (Malawi)

Vitu Ngwira was born and raised in Malawi. She relocated to the U.S. eight years ago and now resides in Maryland where she spends most of her time creating jewelry. She is a self-taught designer who was inspired to start designing accessories due to her love for vintage, classic and ethnic accessories. She believes that the right accessories portrays one's individuality and style. Therefore, her accessories are can be used to dress up an outfit for that special occasion, or dress down an outfit, for a more casual chic look. Whatever the occasion, her accessories are designed to make a statement. Ngwira's line consists of jewelry that is high quality since each accessory is carefully handcrafted. She is proud to express her love for both jewelry and African aesthetics through her vibrantly designed accessories for women.

## SACU'S MISSION VISION AND GOALS

### OUR STORY

*Southern Africans have been migrating to the U.S for a shorter time then other Africans and therefore are fewer in numbers and are less visible then other Africans. In recent years, the number of Southern Africans migrating to the U.S. to stay has increased. Many countries have formed associations and groups over the years at the national level but no regional organization had been formed. In 2013 a group of like-minded Southern Africans decided that it was time to formalize relations within Southern African communities through concentrated efforts in a more formal way. By June of 2013, the "Southern African Union" Picnic and Party was organized to bring the communities together. This August event was the first Southern African event that was truly representative of all Southern African communities.*

### SOUTHERN AFRICAN COMMUNITY USA

Southern African Community USA (SACU) is a registered 501 (3) c non-profit incorporated in the state of Maryland. The communities we represent include: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. We are a membership organization with membership open to both individuals and organizations affiliated with Southern Africa.

SACU's Mission Statement. "The mission of the SACU is to unite all citizens, descendants and friends of Southern Africa in the USA through various activities and events, and to increase the visibility of Southern Africans in the USA whilst contributing to the overall development of the Southern African community."

SACU's Vision Statement. To be the leading voice and resource on Southern Africa.

### SACU's Long-Term Goals.

- Promote Southern African countries and communities.
- Inform, educate and create cultural awareness about Southern Africa.
- Provide a platform for economic empowerment of Southern Africans in the USA.
- Contribute to philanthropic and social welfare projects.
- To build and encourage community amongst Southern Africans (community building).
- Provide culturally enhanced entertainment.

## PROGRAM

Cocktail Hour 6pm–8pm

Welcome & Introductions by hosts.

Model's Parade of Southern African Countries Flags

*Cultural presentation/traditional drum dance by ZimUniq*

Remarks from SACU Board

Remarks from Mayor Eugene W. Grant

**1st Scene: Gaynor Khan and Margaret Perakis (South Africa)**

**2nd Scene: AlmazAfrika by Almaz Mahati (Zimbabwe)**

Dance presentation – Leo na Leo Next Generation (Uganda and Tanzania)

**3rd Scene: Vituz Place by Vitu Ngwira (Malawi)**

*Dance presentation by ZimUniq*

**4th Scene: Vuvu Stone Collection by Betty Chibwe (Zambia)**

**5th Scene: Nashona by Lilian K. Danieli (Tanzania)**

*Poetry – Mphasto Matenda*

**6th Scene: iZaura by Mothusi Lesolle (Botswana)**

**7th Scene: Designs by Yhanique Lopes Ariane Fonseca (Angola)**

*Dance presentation by Mai Afrofusion Dance Fitness by Tsiti (Zimbabwe)*

**8th Scene: All Flo Couture by Flory Ramoreboli (Lesotho)**

Acknowledgment of Event Organizers

Closing Remarks

**~After Party to Follow~**



## HOSTS

### Tapiwa Kandemiri

Tapiwa Kandemiri is a Zimbabwean-born senior psychology major at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. As an active student on campus, she also a member of the Model African Union and Miss ASA (African Student Association). She enjoys promoting a positive image of Africa and African culture. Kandemiri was born in Zimbabwe and lived there until 2004 when her family relocated to Maryland. As a multi-talented individual, she loves to dance and is a member of a Zimbabwean dance troupe who performs at area events.

### Wilson Maguwah

Wilson Maguwah is Zimbabwean-born host for MAG Network Television. He graduated from Penn State University with a degree in broadcast journalism and a minor in African studies. At Penn State University, he was president of a campus television station in 2011. He was also in the Army ROTC program and played rugby for the Nittany Lions. Maguwah was one of a few students selected for a fellowship program at CNBC where he made a national TV appearance. He is now a talk show host for his own show, MAG Network Television where focuses on sports news and other current events. For more information, visit [www.wilsonmaguwah.com](http://www.wilsonmaguwah.com).

### Andrew Motaung

Andrew Motaung was born in Lesotho but moved to Atteridgeville South Africa in the 1950s. He attended the Transvaal College of Education (T.C.E) in Soshanguve (Pretoria) where he received a Secondary Teachers Diploma. Motaung taught English at Lebowa kgomo High School near Pietersburg in the Limpopo region. He then moved to the US to further his studies and as a result, received his BA, MA, and M.Ed. Motaung currently works for the Baltimore City Public Schools System as an Assistant Principal at Carver Vocational Technical High School. He enjoys biking, traveling, and playing soccer occasionally.

## DESIGNERS

### Nashona (Tanzania)

Nashona is a new fashion forward women's clothing line that specializes in collaborating unique styles that are chic yet with vibrant fabrics from Tanzania. Nashona, which means "I sew", was created by designers and owner Lilian K. Daniel. Daniels currently lives in North Carolina but is originally from Tanzania. She writes "Made in Tanzania with Love" across each label of Nashona clothing to represent to the country of her origin. Daniels believes in serving her community by merging traditional African prints such as Kitege and Kanga cloth, with contemporary silhouettes to complete a versatile and unique look. They seek to provide quality African prints in high fashion apparel while helping to serve local and global communities. More information can be found at [www.nashona.com](http://www.nashona.com)

### All Flo Couture (Lesotho)

A native of Lesotho, Chief Creative Officer of All Flo Couture, Flory Ramoreboli, has infused the beauty of her homeland into her clothing. Educated in Europe, she currently resides in New York City where she takes an innovative approach to fashion design. Her international brand is uniquely African yet, accessible to the Western consumer. The designer makes use of captivating rich tones of vivid hues with subtle yet deliberate details. Her intent is to initiate a change in the perception of couture. The All Flo Fashion House is a marriage of culture and couture. She believes high fashion can in fact be intelligently and carefully crafted without being pretentious. She describes her brand as "Southern African", "Revolutionary" and "non-conformist". More information can be found at: [www.allflocouture.com](http://www.allflocouture.com)

### Ariane Fonseca (Angola)

Angolan designer, Ariane Fonseca, was born in Luanda. Whilst pursuing her education in business administration, she started her clothing line for women. She combines religion and fashion to empower women by inspiring them to aspire to be the type of woman described in Proverbs: 31. Therefore, she promotes this Bible passages in the garments in her clothing line. Fonseca desires to continue working with women and in a new future become a professional motivational speaker. She is currently the Marketing Director for Esther's Palace, an organization in Florida that helps women in distress. She is also the co-founder of 'Passos de Mulher', an organizations in Angola that helps women to find their purpose in life. She was recently crowned the winner at the Miss African Roots pageant and she plans to use this post to create a bridge between Angola and USA by representing the Angolan culture in USA.