

South Africa Partners

Fostering Partnerships Between the United States and South Africa

Boston Premiere Screening of **SING YOUR SONG**

A documentary film about artist and
activist Harry Belafonte

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 6:30PM
Kendall Square Cinema, Cambridge



Save the Date!

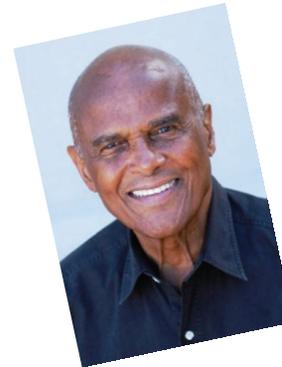
South Africa Partners Annual Celebration

Saturday, October 13th, 2012

at the **Boston Marriott Cambridge**

6:30 PM—Cocktail Reception

7:30 PM—Dinner & Awards Presentation



2012 Desmond Tutu Award

Harry Belafonte

2012 Corporate Citizen Award

Carol Fulp



With Special Guest

H.E. Ebrahim Rasool

South African Ambassador to the United States

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If you would like to receive an invitation for the event, please contact

Brenna DeCotis at (617) 443-1072 or bdecotis@sapartners.org

Dear Friends,

South Africa Partners is honored to be hosting the Boston Premiere of *Sing Your Song*. This compelling documentary provides an extraordinary glimpse into the life of Harry Belafonte, cultural hero and political activist. Mr. Belafonte's unwavering activism on behalf of human rights around the world, his leadership and engagement in the civil rights and anti-apartheid movements, and his tremendous contributions to the field of arts and culture, are an inspiring reminder of what a committed individual can accomplish.

We look forward to continuing the celebration of Mr. Belafonte and his many accomplishments when we come together at our annual celebration, which will be held on Saturday, October 13th, 2012. Mr. Belafonte will join us for the evening and we hope you will be there as well.

Tonight, we take the opportunity to honor five individuals who fought both for civil rights in the United States and the liberation of South Africa. In the spirit of Harry Belafonte's remarkable life as an artist and activist, SA Partners honors local leaders:

Reebee Garofalo, Caroline Hunter, Willard Johnson, Mel King, and Byron Rushing. Thank you for being with us as we celebrate these exemplary individuals and present them with the Amandla Award.

The funds we raise this evening will help South Africa Partners continue to build mutually beneficial partnerships between the United States and South Africa, linking people, strengthening communities, promoting social justice, and fostering leadership in both countries.

In gratitude,



Judith Kurland
Board President



Mary Tiseo
Executive Director

Dear South Africa Partners,

We are pleased to join in this evening's celebration as you premiere *Sing Your Song* in Boston and honor local leaders of the Boston anti-apartheid movement. Harry Belafonte's many accomplishments and his remarkable life as an artist and activist are an inspiration. The award winning film, *Sing Your Song*, is a fitting tribute to his constant and enduring dedication to justice.

We also join you in honoring five local anti-apartheid leaders - *Reebee Garofalo, Caroline Hunter, Willard Johnson, Mel King, and Byron Rushing* - who, like Harry Belafonte, have fought for human rights both in the United States and South Africa. They join many others around the country who have worked tirelessly on behalf of justice in both the civil rights and anti-apartheid movements.

Finally, we commend South Africa Partners for continuing to host gatherings such as the one taking place tonight. These events are an important opportunity to come together, learn, and celebrate, as we continue to strive for the highest ideals exemplified by individuals such as Mr. Mandela, Mr. Belafonte, and the individuals you honor this evening.

On behalf of the South African Consulate in New York I extend our appreciation for the work of SA Partners, and reaffirm our desire to continue our joint efforts to build meaningful and lasting partnerships between our two countries.

Sincerely yours,



The Honorable George Monyemangene
South African Consul General, New York

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Special Friends

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SING YOUR SONG

A film by **Susanne Rostock**

A **Belafonte Enterprises** and **S2BN Entertainment** Production
In Association with **Julius R. Nasso Productions**

Producers: Michael Cohl; Gina Belafonte; Jim Brown;
William Eigen; & Julius R. Nasso

Editors: Susanne Rosock & Jason L. Pollard

Co-Producer: Sage Scully

Composer: Hahn Rowe

“Get them to sing your song and they will want to know who you are.”

– **Paul Robeson**

Synopsis

Wonderfully archived, and told with a remarkable sense of intimacy, visual style, and musical panache, Susanne Rostock’s inspiring biographical documentary, *SING YOUR SONG*, surveys the life and times of singer/actor/activist Harry Belafonte. From his rise to fame as a singer, inspired by Paul Robeson, and his experiences touring a segregated country, to his provocative crossover into Hollywood, Belafonte’s groundbreaking career personifies the American civil rights movement and impacted many other social movements. Rostock reveals Belafonte as a tenacious hands-on activist, who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., mobilized celebrities for social justice, participated in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, and took action to counter gang violence, prisons, and the incarceration of youth.

Because of his beliefs, Belafonte drew unwarranted invasions by the FBI into both his personal life and career, which led to years of struggle. But an indomitable sense of optimism motivates his path even today as he continues to ask, at 84, “What do we do now?” His example may very well inspire you to action.

Evening Program

6:30 PM ♦ Theater Opens

7:00 PM ♦ Award Ceremony

Welcome

Judith Kurland

President of the Board, South Africa Partners

Introduction of Honorees

Janet Axelrod, Margaret Burnham & Dick Clapp

Presentation of Awards

Margaret Burnham &

The Honorable George Monyemangene
South African Consul General, NY

7:30 PM ♦ Screening of *Sing Your Song*

The international anti-apartheid movement engaged millions of people over many decades. As the movement evolved, regional efforts took on their own rhythm and character as leaders tested messages and strategies that resonated with local activists. In Boston, there were several important campaigns that galvanized support and fed into larger national and international efforts to challenge the apartheid regime. The most important of these were:

Anti-Krugerrand Campaign

The Krugerrand, a 1-oz. South African commemorative coin was first minted in 1967 to help market South African gold; an important contributor to the South African economy. By 1985, the anti-Krugerrand campaign had gained momentum as coin collectors and dealers began moving away from its use and purchase because of the South African government's apartheid policies. Boston was the center of the most intense anti-Krugerrand activity, joining with the American Committee on Africa, which called the coin "a piece of apartheid".

Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement

In 1970, two African American Polaroid workers formed PRWM when they discovered that the company's products were being used by the South African government to produce photos for the dreaded pass-books, an ID document that all Black South Africans were required to carry. A campaign was launched to demand that Polaroid (1) completely disengage from South Africa, (2) announce its position on apartheid, and (3) contribute profits earned in South Africa to recognized African liberation movements. The workers were eventually fired for their activities, but continued to carry on their efforts to end Polaroid's support of the apartheid regime. Polaroid did finally divest from South Africa in 1977.

Divestment Campaign

Another important strategy was the divestment movement, which sought to diminish corporate investments in South Africa as a way to put pressure on the government to dismantle apartheid. First advocated in the late 1960s, it gained momentum in the United States in the mid-1980s. In 1982, Massachusetts's legislature enacted a bill ending the investment of public funds in firms doing business in or with South Africa, the first such state-level legislation to be passed in the country. MassDivest, a coalition that led the effort, was credited with the campaign's success. With the Massachusetts victory, other states began to pass similar legislation.

Preventing the Renewal of U.S. Bank Loans

Focusing on U.S. banks that offered loans to the South African government, this campaign sought to block the renewal of these loans as a strategy to further weaken the apartheid government's ability to operate. Church groups, pension funds, and non-profits across the country began withdrawing their assets from banks refusing to join the campaign. By 1985 U.S. banks ceased rolling over loans, which led to a flight of capital from the country and a plunge in the value of the South African

Rand. The refusal of foreign banks to roll over South Africa's loans forced some reform, and modifications in the façade of apartheid were made, such as the repeal of pass laws in 1986.



Sports Isolation & the Cultural Boycott

In addition to focusing on the financial sector, artists and athletes waged their own campaigns to end apartheid. Isolating South Africa in the sporting arena was an important movement that galvanized support around the world. The first association to ban South Africa was FIFA, the international soccer association, in 1963. The International Olympic Committee withdrew its invitation for South Africa to participate in the 1964 and 1968 Olympics, and formally expelled South Africa 1970. Boycotts within individual sports followed, with South Africa eventually being expelled from international competition in golf, tennis, rugby, and cricket.

In the culture arena, performing artists, actors, fine artists, and writers used a boycott strategy, vowing not to perform in South Africa or have their works presented until apartheid was ended.

AMANDLA — *Festival of Unity*

In Boston, a group of activists organized the *Amandla Festival of Unity* at Harvard Stadium in 1979 as a way to call attention to the liberation movements in Southern Africa. The event was

headlined by Bob Marley and the Wailers and featured a number of other prominent artists, including Patti LaBelle, Eddie Palmieri, Dick Gregory, drummer Babatunde Olatunji and the South African band Jabula.



AMANDLA Award Criteria

Boston has had a rich history of activism. Anti-apartheid activism was among the most prominent movements of the 20th century. The AMANDLA Award is given to those individuals who were either singularly important to that movement, or through their long-term participation, made the promise of a new South Africa that much more possible.

Recipients of the AMANDLA Award will be individuals who:

- Were prominent Boston activists who provided leadership to one of the major local anti-apartheid campaigns:
 - ◆ Closing of the South African Consulate and protesting the sale of Krugerrand coins
 - ◆ Ending Polaroid's participation in the production of Pass Books
 - ◆ Pressuring companies, universities, and government pension fund campaigns to divest from companies doing business in South Africa
 - ◆ Preventing US banks from renewing loans to the apartheid regime
 - ◆ Cultural Boycott and Sports Isolation
- Consistently made the link between the struggle for civil rights in the U.S. and liberation of South Africa
- Have continued to bring the principles of the anti-apartheid movement into struggles for justice and equity here in the United States.

Award Selection Committee:

Margaret Burnham; Richard Clapp; & Janet Axelrod

Honorees

Reebee Garofalo
Caroline Hunter
Willard Johnson
Mel King
Byron Rushing

Honorees

Reebee Garofalo

Reebee Garofalo taught at the College of Public and Community Service at the University of Massachusetts, Boston for 33 years. He retired from academia in 2011. He is the author of *Rockin' Out: Popular Music in the USA*, which is in its fifth edition. He is also the co-author of *Policing Pop*, editor of *Rockin' The Boat: Mass Music and Mass Movements*, and co-author of *Rock 'n' Roll is Here to Pay: The History and Politics of the Music Industry*. Reebee has lectured widely on a variety of music-related subjects and has served on numerous boards and committees both nationally and internationally. Locally, he is currently a member of the Organizing Committee for the HONK! Festival of Activist Street Bands and performs with its host band -- The Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band. He was a co-founder and Past President of Massachusetts Rock Against Racism. In 1979, Reebee joined with other local activists to organize the *Amandla Festival of Unity*, which raised funds for the liberation movements of Southern Africa while also supporting the efforts of Boston communities to end racism.

Caroline Hunter

Caroline Hunter graduated from Xavier University in New Orleans in 1968, and shortly thereafter was recruited as a research bench chemist by the Polaroid Corporation. It was in this capacity in October 1970 that she discovered by chance Polaroid's involvement in the production of the apartheid era passbook ID system. To bring attention to the company's participation, she and Ken Williams, a co-worker who would eventually become her husband, formed the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement. In 1971 Caroline, who testified before the United Nations Special Committee on Apartheid and the U.S. Congress Foreign Relations Committee, met with the members of the Congressional Black Caucus calling for Polaroid's withdrawal from South Africa. She was subsequently fired because of her advocacy of a boycott of Polaroid products. For the nearly six years Caroline continued to advocate for U.S. disengagement with the apartheid regime, which the company did in 1977. After leaving Polaroid, Caroline went on to become a secondary science and math teacher and in 2000 became an assistant principal at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. She is now retired, but her activism continues. Caroline manages the Ken Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund, created by his then tenth grade daughter Lisette, at the time of her father's death. The KWMS Fund has given more than \$30,000 in college scholarships to needy students in Cambridge and Martha's Vineyard in honor of Ken's humanitarianism and anti-apartheid work.

Honorees

Willard Johnson

Willard Johnson is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at MIT, having focused on a broad range of African and African American studies during his career, including politics, policy strategies, and the role of external human and capital resources in African development. He has authored two books and numerous book chapters and journal articles on African societies and is currently researching patterns of historic relations between Africans and Native Americans. He founded and continues to be an active leader of the Boston Pan-African Forum, which promotes mutually beneficial relationships between the United States and the peoples of Africa and the African Diaspora. Willard is the founder and current President of The Kansas Institute of African American and Native American Family History, a non-profit organization dedicated to commemorating pioneer African American families, historic ties between African- and Native-Americans, and to promote their collaboration and mutual interests. As part of the anti-apartheid movement, Willard Johnson helped leaders understand the severity of South Africa's human rights abuses. He joined Randall Robinson as a founder of Trans-Africa Forum and became a leader within its Free South Africa Movement. Willard led the Boston chapter of Trans-Africa for many years.

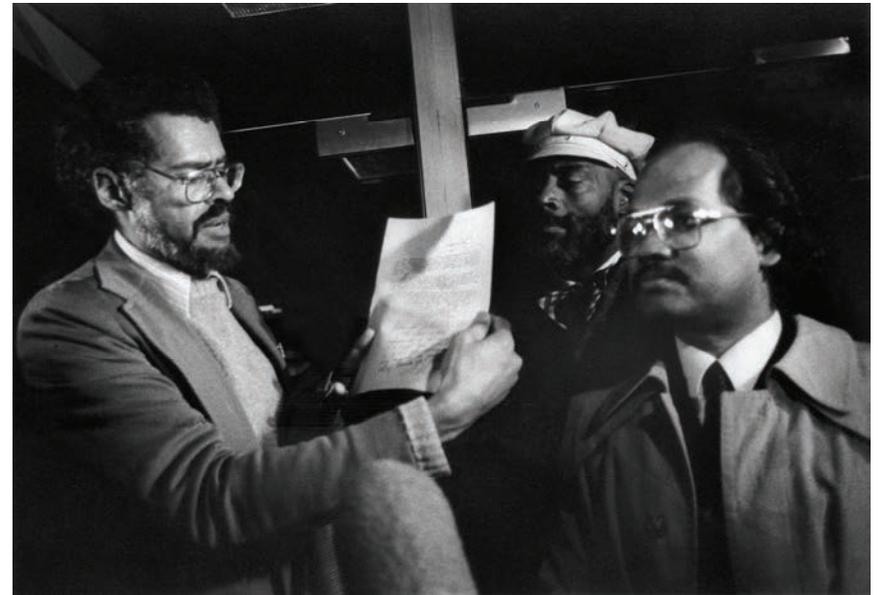
Mel King

Mel King, a social activist for more than fifty-five years, has served as elected politician, educator, youth worker, author, and Adjunct Professor of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT. As executive director of the New Urban League of Greater Boston, starting in 1967, he was involved in various community organization efforts and business development programs in the Roxbury area. Mel served as a State Representative from 1973 to 1982. During that time he joined with State Senator Jack Backman to push Massachusetts legislation to require full divestment of the state pension funds from companies doing business in South Africa. In 1968, Mel provided leadership to a successful South End development protest, which led to the establishment of the Tent City Corporation (TCC). In 1983 TCC, initiated the country's first mix income housing development that now serves as a national model for urban renewal. Upon his retirement from MIT in 1996, Mel established the South End Technology Center, a collaboration between TCC and MIT, to ensure that local residents have access to technology training and support for their personal and professional development. He continues to serve as its Director. Mel is the author of *Chain of Change: Struggles for Black Community Development*, and more recently he published a book of poetry entitled *Streets*.

Honorees

Byron Rushing

Byron Rushing was born in New York City, but has lived in Boston since 1964. Active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s, he worked for CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) in Syracuse, New York and as a community organizer for the Northern Student Movement in Boston. Later, while leading Roxbury Associates, he helped to found the Lower Roxbury Community Corporation, one of the first community development corporations in the nation. From 1972 to 1985 he was President of the Museum of Afro-American History. Under his direction, the Museum purchased and began restoration of the African Meeting House, the oldest extant black church building in the United States. Byron was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1982. In the legislature, Byron's priorities have been human and civil rights, and the development of democracy; local human, economic and housing development; and housing and health care for all. Byron was a leader of the Commonwealth's anti-apartheid efforts and is a sponsor of the Commonwealth's twinning relationship with the Province of the Eastern Cape in South Africa.



After a campaign to close the Boston South African Consulate, Willard Johnson displays signed letter of resignation of Acting Consul to South Africa with activist Mel King and Boston City Counselor Charles Yancey. December 4, 1984 Boston, MA.

Activist Acknowledgements

In addition to the people we honor this evening it is important to mention **Themba Vilakazi**, who served as the African National Congress representative in Boston. His involvement cut across several campaigns, over many years. Also important to mention is the **Africa Research Group** and its leadership, which included **Carol Bengelsdorf, Margaret H. Marshall** and **Danny Schecter**.

Members of the media who found important ways to broaden the reach of anti-apartheid messages included **Steve Curwood, David Goodman, Marita Rivero**, and **Danny Schecter**.

We also take note of attorney **Margaret A. Burnham's** many contributions to the defense of activists and her participation in several campaigns, as well as **Dick Clapp** for his leadership in the **Boston Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa** and **MassDivest**.

While it is impossible to mention everyone who was engaged in local anti-apartheid activities, we make an attempt here to acknowledge at least some of those who were central to key local movements. *Our apologies to those who should be on this list and are not mentioned.*

Closing of the South African Consulate in Boston & the Anti-Krugerrand Campaign

Bruce Bolling
Dominic Bozatto
Fahamisha Brown
Reverend Graylin Ellis-Hagler
Howard Fain
Leonard Fein
Karen Fields
Willard Johnson
Jemadari Kamara
Mel King
Pearl Robinson
Loretta William
Charles Yancey

Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement

Caroline Hunter
Ntsiki Langford
Frank Shefton
Vaughn Simkins
Skip Williams

Divestment Campaign

Boston United Front
Judith Baker
Dick Clapp
Michael Dukakis
Saundra Graham
Mel King
Byron Rushing
Rosaria Salerno
Neva Seidman
Juanita & Ken Wade
Robert Zevin

Activist Acknowledgements

Preventing the Renewal of U.S. Bank Loans

Barbara Brown
Fahamisha Brown
Dick Clapp
Anne Crane
Lee Farris
David Massey
Tim Smith

Winnie Mandela Support Committee

Nadine Cohen
Caroline Hunter
Hilda Norflett
Mina Ready
Ginger Ryan
Juanita Wade

Cultural and Sports Boycotts

Richard Lapchick
Ken Carstens

Reebee Garofalo, and other members of the Amandla Collective: Janet Axelrod ♦ Janine Fay ♦ Shelley Neill ♦ Filipe Noguera ♦ George Pillsbury ♦ Kazi Toure



South African Women's Day March. March 9, 1986. Roxbury, MA.



Anti-apartheid activists in Boston.

The anti-apartheid campaign was waged over many years. Some who participated did not live to see the end of apartheid. Others who celebrated in that victory are no longer with us. **We want to acknowledge local heroes who were instrumental in Boston area campaigns and whom we honor posthumously.**

Jack Backman, *who as Massachusetts State Senator, joined forces with Mel King to lead efforts within the State Legislature*

Paul Epstein, *whose work in public health and Southern Africa's liberation were a reflection of his deep devotion to social justice*

Mackie McLeod & Zubaida Price, *whose activism and expertise helped publicize local activities, reaching broad audiences with anti-apartheid messages*

Chris Nteta, *for his many contributions, including his leadership within the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement*

George Wald, *Nobel Laureate, for his contributions to the closing of the South African Consulate in Boston and the Anti-Kruggerand Campaign*

Ken Williams, *who joined with Caroline Hunter to form and lead the Revolutionary Workers Movement at Polaroid*

South Africa Partners builds mutually beneficial partnerships between the United States and South Africa in the areas of health and education. Serving as a catalyst and incubator of innovative approaches, South Africa Partners seeks to link people, strengthen communities, promote social justice, and foster leadership in both countries.

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MASIFUNDE SONKE: *LET US READ TOGETHER* is an exciting initiative, providing a two-way exchange between the United States and South Africa. The thirty-two items in the Masifunde Sonke collection were selected by a committee of educators and community leaders, who chose the material based upon their literary excellence and incorporation of themes of justice, hope, and renewal. All of the books in the collection were written and illustrated by South Africans.

Since 2006, Masifunde Sonke has given individuals and families in the United States access to these inspiring books, bringing the joy of South African children's literature into our homes and schools. Additionally, for every book purchased in the United States, South Africa Partners donates a book in the purchaser's name to an under-funded school in South Africa. This means that the initiative is also promoting literacy and a joy of reading among students in South Africa by providing them with books which reflect their own experiences. Finally, the project continues to strengthen and support the South African publishing industry, by increasing the demand for these resources.

Visit our online bookshop at:
www.sapartners.org/bookshop



*“What good is a conscience
if it is not awakened.”*

—Harry Belafonte



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