

2013-J3984

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending co-creators Shawnee Benton-Gibson, Sonia Daly, and Melissa Madera upon the occasion of presenting The Mother Wit Conference, on April 5, 2014

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend co-creators Shawnee Benton-Gibson, Sonia Daly, and Melissa Madera upon the occasion of presenting The Mother Wit Conference, to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at the National Black Theater in Harlem, New York City; and

WHEREAS, Coping with cultural expectations around the ideas of conception, birth and motherhood is painful for women who have experienced loss in these areas, particularly since society often lacks compassionate and appropriate language; and

WHEREAS, The Mother Wit Conference is a unique day-long event created to offer women from all walks of life a safe and engaging environment in which they may give voice to their reproductive experiences, including infertility, miscarriage, abortion, and/or post-partum depression, thereby breaking the silence that so often accompanies these experiences; and

WHEREAS, Featuring a comprehensive program of healing workshops, presentations from respected academics, healers and reproductive health practitioners, and theatrical representation, The Mother Wit Conference will create the space for the stories to be brought to the light in

order to educate, dispel myths, allay fears, initiate transformation and generate healing and catharsis; and

WHEREAS, Co-creators Shawnee Benton-Gibson, Sonia Daly, and Melissa Madera, collectively bring decades of in-depth research, professional training, and deep personal experience to The Mother Wit Conference's healing enterprise; and

WHEREAS, Shawnee Benton-Gibson, founder and Executive Director of The Griots' Healing Circle, is a licensed practitioner with over 20 years of experience in the field of social work; a healer, vision coach, performance artist, psychodramatist, community activist, inspirational speaker and mother of three, she has written, produced and/or designed, "Monday Morning Inspiration," "The Rooftop Visionary Collective," "The Red Thread Movement," and "Mother Wit: Echoes From The Womb"; and

WHEREAS, Sonia A.M. Daly is a multiple miscarriage survivor and aspiring voice-over artist who authored and recorded VOICES OF ZEN: A GUIDED MEDITATION FOR WOMEN WHO 'VE MISCARRIED in 2013 to encourage other women; in addition, she has 15 years' experience in public advocacy and service, including leadership roles with YMCA of Greater New York; and WHEREAS, Melissa Madera, Ph.D., is a bilingual sexual and reproductive health and rights educator and advocate, DONA International trained labor and postpartum doula, childbirth educator, and Gynecological Teaching Associate, as well as the founder and director of "The Abortion Diary Podcast"; and

WHEREAS, The Mother Wit Conference provides an excellent opportunity for these trailblazing organizers to bring much-needed awareness and appropriate societal responses to the complex set of emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical health issues surrounding women's reproductive journeys; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized for the edification and emulation of others;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend co-creators Shawnee Benton-Gibson, Sonia Daly, and Melissa Madera upon the occasion of presenting The Mother Wit Conference; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitable engrossed, be transmitted to Shawnee Bento-Gibson, Sonia Daly, and Melissa Madera.