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funding Women and Girls

Fall 2002



We are proud to feature Nance Parker's "A Painting for Betsy" in the promotional materials for the 2002 Evening to Honor Maine Women and Girls.

EVENING TO HONOR MAINE WOMEN AND GIRLS October 7, 2002

Holiday Inn by the Bay
Portland, Maine

Call MWF office 774-5513 or register online www.maine womensfund.org

Meet the 2002 Grant Recipients at a free reception 4:00—6:00 pm
Dinner begins at 6:15 p.m.
Tickets: \$30-70 sliding scale

Sign language interpreters will be present.

The Maine Women's Fund gratefully acknowledges the early support of:

Dead River Company
Verizon
Portland Press Herald / Maine Sunday Telegram
Port City Life Magazine
Mediahunter.com in honor of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

KeyBank
Peoples Heritage Bank
Cynthia S. McMullin, A.I.A.
Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson

STELLA LADO

"Her arms are always open wide with love." Although she does not call herself a leader, Stella Lado has become a compelling force for cross-cultural understanding in her neighborhood, her school, and in a Portland which is becoming increasingly diverse. "Her leadership and mentoring never ends," writes a nominator. "Stella truly cares about the children in her community ... When Stella speaks, they listen!" Stella has learned about cultural diversity by living it: she and her family fled the Sudanese Civil War, emigrating to the United States via Egypt when Stella was thirteen.



In addition to becoming a mentor for neighborhood children, Stella has actively worked for cultural understanding in Portland. She leads a troupe of young Sudanese girls in African dance, encouraging them to preserve the traditions of their homeland.

At Portland High School, she was president of the Civil Rights team, and was a delegate to the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D. C. A force for social justice, an advocate against racism, and a mentor for young women and girls, Stella is truly a bright star!

ALEXANDRA MERRILL

"She is a fully embodied woman, unafraid to stand up and speak about the most unspeakable issues surrounding sexism, racism, classism, homophobia, heterosexism, ageism, fat and thinnism, as well as spiritual and ethnic differences ... no other teacher has inspired me and deepened my understanding of misogyny and feminism." These remarks from a nominator, extraordinary as they are, give only a partial picture of Alexandra Merrill's accomplishments, and her impact on the lives of women and girls.

A teacher and writer, her influence has spread from Maine to other areas of the United States, and to the Third World. Her thirty years of work with women has sown the seeds of twenty leadership programs in the United States and India, where a leadership group is planned for this year. Alexandra also conceived of and created *Women's Way*, and the *Women's Leadership Collaborative* to foster women's leadership and community building. She has also been a powerful force in the inception and development of *Mainly Girls*, acting as both mentor and advocate for young girls in Maine.

Continued on page 2



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Verizon—the MWF's
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Continued from cover

"She knew immediately the importance of working with girls on their own behalf," says a nominator. Through her non-profit Dragon Farm, she provided fiscal sponsorship and network support in the early days of Mainely Girls and many other fledgling organizations, support which has produced strong, vibrant, feminist organizations around the state. Her commitment to social change and to the elimination of gender oppression, and her skill at exploring conflict and female creativity is reflected in every facet of her life. Those she has mentored agree: "We are all better women leaders for knowing Alexandra."

PENNY PLOURDE



"A true pioneer who breaks the boundaries of traditional thinking ... she pushes the edges of advocacy organizations, offering all of us, both male and female, a challenge to honor diversity," says a nominator. Penny Plourde has made a lifetime commitment to going beyond "just the job." Maine is a leader in women's participation in trades and technology; Penny has worked tirelessly to remove the gender barriers facing Maine girls and women, especially in the construction and transportation industries. Increased opportunities have resulted in increased self-esteem and richer lives for women and girls previously consigned to traditionally "female" occupations.

Penny's efforts have also gone far beyond the borders of Maine: she planned and led an exciting national conference of tradeswomen in Denver, Colorado. She has also led three regional institutes aimed at partnership development for women in highway construction, as well

as at establishing training programs to help bring women into the industry. A nominator writes: "I want to thank you for this opportunity to brag a little about Penny. With all the bragging she does about other women, it is, indeed, her turn."

ANH THU THI TRUONG

A daughter of immigrants from Viet Nam, Anh Thu Thi Truong made friends, learned English, and acted as an interpreter and ambassador for her family when they first arrived in Portland. Since then, she has been committed to excellence and leadership in every aspect of her life.

Among other accomplishments, she is an honor student, scholarship winner, and a member of the Civil Rights team and of the National Honor Society at Deering High School. She also holds a Black Belt in Karate. But it is her commitment to community service, to the lives of girls of diverse backgrounds in a Girl Scout troop in River-ton, and to her work with Youth Engaged in Service (Y.E.S.) that makes her so extraordinary. Not content to simply excel in her studies, Anh Thu is as strongly motivated to inspire the lives of others, and to help create new opportunities by challenging economic and ethnic barriers.

"She gives of herself without reservation, and has found that by giving, she gains." Anh Thu is currently a student at the University of New Hampshire. Although she herself recognized, in a published piece, that "I can be whatever my heart desires to be," her dream is to continue her service to others by becoming a pediatrician. As she wrote in an article published in the Portland Press Herald, "I have a loving family, good friends who care for me, a good education and Buddha's blessings. What more could I ask for?"



Life shrinks or expands
in proportion to
one's courage.

Anais Nin



Every day, I am reminded of how much women are able to do with so little – so little time, so little support, so little money. I am proud that the

Maine Women's Fund continues to work toward a different vision – a vision of abundance and security – by awarding grants and implementing programs that will make a deep and lasting difference for Maine women and girls. We know that by working in partnership with our donors and our grantees, we truly are creating lasting, positive change.

Our trajectory of growth since our first grants were awarded in 1990 has been impressive:

- ◆ More than \$900,000 in grants has been awarded to nonprofit groups working to improve the lives of women and girls statewide;
- ◆ More than \$1 million has been secured for our endowment;
- ◆ A growing network of young women leaders has been well established through the *New Girls' Network* program, which focuses on feminism, leadership and philanthropy;
- ◆ Working in partnership with a wide range of sponsors and collaborating agencies, our "Women and Money" programs continue to offer safe environments to learn about and discuss money and its power in our lives.

And yet, all of this is not enough.

For every dollar we have awarded in grants over 12 years, we could easily

have awarded ten more; for every dollar we have raised and invested in our endowment, we would like to have five more. Our program initiatives are limited to our capacity to deliver them, not to the interest in participation. We, too, need to move further into abundance and security.

The Maine Women's Fund is a testament to the power of individual and collective effort to make a difference, even in the face of challenge and adversity. Because we hold the dreams of thousands of Maine women and girls in our hands, you and many, many others like you have helped us get where we are today. Now, it is time to make a quantum leap forward to make our vision reality.

Our quantum leap should:

- ◆ Increase our grantmaking capacity so that our grantees can fulfill their visions;
- ◆ Increase the involvement of our donors in our work, either as *Kindred Spirits* or as MWF volunteers;
- ◆ Increase our *New Girls' Network* to include hundreds of emerging women leaders in their 20's and 30's from across the state;
- ◆ Increase the frequency and influence of women's voices at every decision-making table;
- ◆ Lead us to our vision of full equality for Maine women and girls.

Please consider joining me in this quest by becoming a member of our *Quantum Leap Donors' Circle*. Donors at all giving levels enter the circle by increasing their giving by 100% and taking a visible stand that says women and girls matter. I invite you to join me in this circle of abundance and security so that all Maine women and girls can benefit.

Thank you so very much.

Karin Anderson

Executive Director

MWF LAUNCHES GRANTEE DATABASE ONLINE

The Maine Women's Fund is thrilled to announce the launching of the grantee database online, starting September 2002!

The last twelve years of grantmaking is now captured in a searchable database and available to the public through the Maine Women's Fund website.

"This is such an exciting accomplishment," says Karin Anderson, MWF Executive Director. *"We believe this wealth of information will help connect grantees with each other and will be invaluable information for prospective grantees and other funders. I encourage all the MWF supporters and donors to visit the website and see the social change that has occurred over that last twelve years."*

The database is searchable with additional technical support available from the MWF staff.

The Maine Women's Fund would like to thank Verizon—the *MWF Integrated Communications Underwriter*—for their vision in bringing this amazing resource to the women and girls of Maine; Vanessa Gates-Elston for the huge task of entering all the information; and to Matt Hunt, A2Z Computing, for his expertise in creating the database.

CHECK IT OUT!

MAINEWOMENSFUND.ORG

Newsletter Team:	Liz Anderson Karin Anderson Will Childs Harriet Duer
Layout:	Liz Anderson
Printing:	Dale Rand Printing

LOIS GALGAY RECKITT
Donor / Wonder Woman
MWF Grantee &
MWF Board Member



Lois Galgay Reckitt has donated to the Fund every year since 1990—giving her the status of *Wonder Woman!* Lois's contributions to the

Fund are much deeper than purely financial—she is completing her 6th and final year as a MWF board member.

Lois is well known in her role as Executive Director of Family Crisis Services, the largest comprehensive domestic violence services program in Maine, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2001. She has worked for FCS for 23 years, with a 6 year absence when she worked as Executive Vice-President for the National Organization of Women (NOW) in Washington, DC.

Her contributions to our community are numerous and have created profound impact:

- ◆ Founder of Maine NOW, 1971.
- ◆ Co-founder of Maine Women's Lobby, 1977.
- ◆ Founder of Human Rights Campaign Fund nationally, 1980.
- ◆ Founder of Maine's Right to Choose.
- ◆ 14th Inductee to the Maine Women's Hall of Fame, 1998.

As a child, Lois spent every summer in Maine. At age 7 she announced to her mother that she wanted to move to Maine, but had to wait until her early 20's to do so! In 1968, Lois married a member of the Coast Guard, moved to South Portland, and has lived in the same house for the last 32 years!

Lois has dedicated her life to making a difference for disadvantaged women. In 1996 she agreed to serve on the MWF board because, "I believe the most effective way for women to create change is to fund it ourselves." The MWF was a way for Lois to continue her commitment toward her personal and professional goals.

In 1996, the MWF awarded \$6,500 to FCS' *Peer Intervention and Prevention Program* to train 20 peer leaders to work in Maine high schools to conduct sessions focusing on ending teen dating violence. The program became the Young Adult Abuse Prevention Project.

YAAPP met with tremendous success, and in 1999 the MWF awarded \$8,500 to FCS to develop a dating violence prevention program appropriate for middle school students. In 2002, the MWF awarded \$15,000, over two years to develop a bullying awareness training program for the elementary grades.

During the FCS anniversary, Lois reflected on the most important changes that have occurred over the last 25 years—her conclusions:

- ◆ Increased emphasis on prevention—(YAAPP).
- ◆ Increased involvement of men in the work toward ending violence against women.

In 2002, FCS is going back to basics as they face significant budget cuts. They are putting their resources to help the most vulnerable women in Maine—elderly, incarcerated and Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning women.

At 57 years old, Lois now feels she has come into her power! She is not afraid or hesitant to speak her mind—some may say she never has been. She is more determined than ever to convey hope for Maine's most vulnerable women.

Fortunately for us, Lois still has the fire, plans and determination to continue on ... Thank you Lois, for your energy, passion and unrelenting commitment!

NEW GIRLS' NETWORK

The *New Girls' Network* is starting its third year this fall—a program designed to build a network of women leaders and philanthropists in their 20's and 30's throughout Maine.

The *New Girls' Network* began in Portland in 2000, expanded to include a Midcoast Maine group in 2001, and will be launched this year in Bangor with generous support from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation.

The registration deadline is September 15, and each group has space for 15 women. The Portland group is now full with a waiting list for 2003.

Please contact Liz Anderson for more details—774-5513 or liz@mainewomensfund.org.

COULEUR COLLECTION
DECEMBER 5, 2002

Couleur Collection will celebrate the Holiday Season with its third annual benefit, designating 10% of the day's sales to the Maine Women's Fund. Couleur Collection will also invite its customers to make direct contributions to the Fund on the day of the benefit.

Join us for a champagne reception in the store from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. MWF staff and board members will share stories about the work of the organization during the reception.

Couleur Collection is located in the Shops at Falmouth Village on U.S. Route One. The store features beautiful women's clothing, jewelry, accessories and gifts organized in a series of spaces by Couleur palette. There is also original art by local and national artists. Come support Maine women and girls while doing some of your holiday shopping!

EVERY WOMAN – A PHILANTHROPIST

Just for a moment, picture all the women in your community ... and imagine what it could look like if every one of them viewed herself as a philanthropist! That's precisely where we need to go.

The world is a very different place for women in the year 2002. Let's take a moment and look at what the national trends and statistics are telling us:

- ◆ Women have more discretionary income and less discretionary time than ever before;
- ◆ The number of female heads of households or primary wage earners has increased by over 50% in the past 10 years;
- ◆ Over 60% of the college freshman class of 2001 consisted of females, with women outpacing men in graduate professional studies;
- ◆ The number of women-owned businesses had increased by 67% and represents the fastest growing sector in the American economy;
- ◆ Women-owned businesses generate over \$3 trillion in annual sales;
- ◆ Women hold the majority of private wealth in America;
- ◆ Women make up over 40% of all investors;
- ◆ The national workforce is 69% females;
- ◆ 71% of women make charitable donations.

So, how to mobilize this potential for philanthropic leadership and positive change? We need to hold up and celebrate a kaleidoscope of women philanthropists as role models and engage them as mentors so every woman can see herself in that role.

So that we can achieve our vision of "Every woman – a philanthropist," we need to recruit by appealing to ... the "Three H's" – hearts, heads and hands.

First, the heart. We need to help women connect with their heartfelt passion and the issues they care about ... this drives us to seek a response.

Second, the head. An understanding of the needs and the possible solutions that are the cornerstones of informed, strategic philanthropy. Women want to be part of creating the solutions that invest in the future.

And last, we might remember that the first thing we do when we meet someone is to shake hands.

Philanthropy needs to shake hands with women – a warm yet firm and meaningful handshake. Through volunteer work we as individuals can start by reflecting on our own experience in this field and work to create similar opportunities for other women. Invite other women to the table of philanthropy, and to make a difference as it is an invitation to become informed and to be a part of a dynamic process of community development. Provide avenues for leadership where women can be at the table and be part of community decision-making.

Effective philanthropy is learned behavior, so the younger we start to engage the head, the heart, and the hands, the better!

Reprinted with permission from Women's Philanthropy Institute – 2002. Excerpt from the keynote speech given by Clotilde Dedecker during the Fulfilling the Potential of Women's Philanthropy conference, March 20-22, 2002.

Web or Snail Mail?

The Fund's newsletter is now on our website
www.mainewomensfund.org

If you wish to receive your newsletter electronically, please email us:
thewomen@mainewomensfund.org

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17



COME FOR DESSERT!!!

The Maine Women's Fund and Kennebunk Savings Bank invite you to come for dessert, and to talk about money, too!

The evening will feature a presentation of the play *Money Talks*, followed by a discussion about money in a safe and friendly environment. Everyone will receive a free personal money management resource guide.

The festivities will take place at the York County Community Action Center, 6 Spruce Street, Sanford. 7-8:30 p.m. There is no charge for the event, including delicious desserts!

RSVP by September 13 and become eligible for delicious door prizes. Call Carol Patterson 324-5762 ext 9039—York County CAP.

Childcare available by reservation only.

Generous Donation from Great Works Internet

Great Works Internet has continued their generous donation of internet service to the Maine Women's Fund. GWI hosts the Fund's website and email.

This donation was made as part of GWI's ongoing Charitable & Non-Profit Program, which is designed to help non-profit organizations increase their ability to communicate with the public and further their mission via the internet.

"The internet has become an important communication tool for the Fund," says Karin Anderson, Executive Director, "and we are extremely grateful to GWI for their service."

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

A new collaborative Women's Leadership Initiative was launched in the Androscoggin Valley by the Maine Women's Fund in partnership with Women, Work and Community on May 23, 2002. The Initiative will build on the economic and community development, civic participation, and community leadership activities that have been growing in Lewiston/Auburn and surrounding towns.

The Initiative will focus on building the capacity of women of all ages and backgrounds to develop confidence, learn and practice leadership skills, link with community resources and leaders, and become involved in shaping programs and policies that affect their lives.

Several themes emerged at the launch event in May:

- ◆ A desire to redefine what leadership is, particularly to reflect women's experiences;
- ◆ The need to create communication and networking opportunities for the women of Androscoggin Valley;
- ◆ An interest in convening forums for dialogue, developing leadership skills and mentoring relationships that are sensitive to the unique culture of the community; and
- ◆ The need to increase public visibility with positive leadership role models.

The next gathering will have just convened as this newsletter goes to press on August 27. The conversation at that meeting will focus on policy issues that are important to women's lives in the Androscoggin Valley, and how women can work together to help shape an economic security agenda for the new governor. This will be one in a series of such community forums around the state.

The Helen and George Ladd Charitable Corporation and the Maine Community Foundation provide funding for the Women's Leadership Initiative.

For more information about the Women's economic security agenda community forums, contact Women, Work and Community at 800-442-2092.

September 12 - Margaret Chase Smith Library, Skowhegan.

September 18 - University of Maine at Farmington.

September 20 - Coastal Economic Development, Bath.

September 26 - University of Southern Maine, Portland and University College of Bangor.

October 3 - Penquis Training and Education Center, Dover-Foxcroft.

FUNDRAISING FOR A CHANGE!

On June 7, 2002, the Maine Women's Fund co-hosted this peer-to-peer learning day in Lucerne-in-Maine, focused on building the capacity of our grantees to garner the resources needed to effect positive social change. The sponsors of the workshop were Maine Funders for Change (which includes Genesis Community Loan Fund, Haymarket People's Fund, Maine Initiatives, Maine Women's Fund, and MaineShare), the New England Grassroots Environment Fund, and the Maine Equity Fund. Nearly 100 representatives of grantees and member groups participated in this exciting day of technical assistance and inspiration.

After an engaging opening address by Lael Stegall, a long-time social change activist and currently Director of the STAR Network, attendees participated in a series of workshops covering topics such as Major Donors, Positioning, Special Events, Your Mailing List, Fundraising in Your Community, and Roles of Board and Staff in Fundraising. Evaluations of the day were overwhelmingly positive, with requests for more workshops of this nature in the future. We hope to be able to accommodate with another technical assistance workshop next spring!

SAVE THE DATE...September 14



MaineShare's

Meet at the Mountain fundraising

Hike & Bike

Bradbury Mountain State Park, Pownal

For more information contact
MaineShare at 622-0105 or visit
www.maineshare.org

SUPPORT MWF THROUGH MAINESHARE'S WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGN



MaineShare's 13th annual fall workplace giving campaign has begun! Again this year, supporters of the Maine Women's Fund will be able to give directly and through payroll deduction to the Maine Women's Fund in addition to MaineShare's 34 other non-profit members. MaineShare's member groups are working for good health, environmental protection, social justice, economic opportunity for all, and much, much more.

Currently, MaineShare reaches more than 60,000 employees statewide at more than 130 workplaces with information about each member organization and an opportunity to contribute to long-term solutions to Maine's human and environmental problems. Since MaineShare's campaigns started in 1989, more than \$1 million has been distributed to our member organizations.

If your workplace currently offers MaineShare, please give to the Maine Women's Fund or other worthy organizations through the efficient process of payroll deduction. If your workplace doesn't offer MaineShare as a charitable option, please contact the MWF 774-5513 or MaineShare directly at 772-9824 to find out how to get involved in this year's campaign and set the stage for MaineShare's participation in years ahead.

EVERYWOMAN'S GARDEN TOUR

On an overcast afternoon in June, over 60 women visited and marveled at four gardens in Cumberland and North Yarmouth. Unlike most garden tours that feature gardens designed and tended by professional landscapers, this tour provided realistic visions most gardeners can achieve.

Thank you to Barbara Babkirk, Wendy Craig, Suzanne Brown Pelletier and Sue Pratt for sharing their gardens. Paintings by Cynthia McMullin and Alice Harmon Shaw were donated for a silent auction.

WOMEN'S GARDEN TEA

Twenty five women wandered through the colorful and fragrant herb gardens at Avena Institute on a sunny afternoon in July. Sharing a cup of herb tea and delicious cookies, Deb Soule gave useful tips on how to nourish our bodies and relieve stress in our busy lives.

Thank you to Deb Soule and Bonnie Rukin Miller for this wonderful opportunity to bring women together.



Visitors enjoying a garden in Cumberland

how you can

Contribute

Become a **QUANTUM LEAP DONOR** and increase your gift by 100%. No matter what its size, **every contribution is important.** Here's how:

Cash gift: No explanation necessary!

Pledge: A pledge of any amount and on any schedule.

Bequest: Designate the MWF as a recipient of part or all of your estate.

Insurance: Designate the MWF as beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

Stocks: By contributing stock, you may receive tax advantages.

Memorial/Honorary: Honor someone living or deceased, or celebrate any occasion with a gift in the name of someone who has made a difference in your life.

Employee Matching: Have your employer match your contribution.

MaineShare: Designate your payroll deduction to MWF.

Money donated to the MWF is professionally managed and carefully allocated. If you have any questions, please call the MWF office 774-5513. The MWF is a 501(c)(3) agency. Gifts to the MWF are tax deductible.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 17

Money Talks—sponsored by the Maine Women's Fund and Kennebunk Savings Bank. York County Community Action Center, 6 Spruce Street, **Sanford**, Cost is free. 7—8:30 p.m. For more information call 774-5513.

September 18

Money Conference for Women—hosted by State Treasurer Dale McCormick and the YWCAs of Maine. Grey Field House, Bates College, **Lewiston**, Cost is free. 9 a.m.—1 p.m. FMI www.state.me.us/treasurer/homepage

September 21

Money Conference for Women—hosted by State Treasurer Dale McCormick and the YWCAs of Maine. Holiday Inn by the Bay, **Portland**, Cost is free. 9 a.m.—1 p.m. FMI www.state.me.us/treasurer/homepage

September 30

Cure Breast Cancer for ME—The Holiday Inn by the Bay, **Portland**, 12—2 p.m. FMI call 773-2533.

October 1

Breakfast of Champions—Maine Women's Lobby and Maine Women's Policy Center, University of Maine, **Presque Isle**. 7:30—9 a.m. FMI call 622-0851.

October 2

Women in Public Life Conference—Holiday Inn by the Bay, **Portland**. 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Muskie School of Public Service. FMI call 780-5960 or visit www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/wplconference

October 3

Breakfast of Champions—Maine Women's Lobby and Maine Women's Policy Center, University of Maine, **Orono**. 7:30—9 a.m. FMI call 622-0851.

October 4

Money & Social Change Conference—an opportunity for donors to talk about the issues relating to funding social change. FMI call 622-6294 or visit www.maineinitiatives.org.

October 5

Money Conference for Women—hosted by State Treasurer Dale McCormick and the YWCAs of Maine. Spectacular Events Center, **Bangor**, Cost is free. 9 a.m.—1 p.m. FMI www.state.me.us/treasurer/homepage

Girls Will Be Girls? Aggression, Sexuality, and Body Image—Performing Arts Center, **Orono**. FMI call Sharon Barker 581-1508.

October 7

Evening to Honor Maine Women and Girls—Holiday Inn by the Bay, **Portland**. See cover for details.

October 23

Breakfast of Champions—Maine Women's Lobby and Maine Women's Policy Center, Holiday Inn by the Bay, **Portland**. 7:30—9 a.m. FMI call 622-0851.

December 5

Couleur Collection—Join us for a champagne reception in the store from 4:00 to 7:00 pm—10% of sales from the entire day will benefit the MWF. FMI call 774-5513.



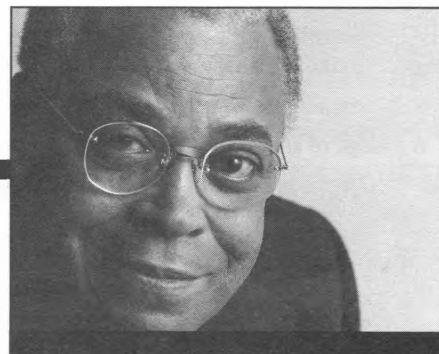
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