



Media kit

SHAKING OFF THE DUST

Raising Our Voices

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SHAKING OFF THE DUST

RAISING OUR VOICES

BY THE SISTAH SCRIBES COLLECTIVE

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About Us



We, Sistah Scribes, believe that every woman has a story and that only she can tell it. We encourage women to write their stories, share them with others now, and preserve them for posterity. We must honor our stories and those of others.

About The Book

Just in time for Women's History month we present our latest anthology *Shaking Off the Dust: Raising Our Voices*. The project allowed each of us to tell our individual stories and to take part in the publishing process. We challenged ourselves to reach inward and share situations and circumstances in our lives that helped shape us. We, the women of Sistah Scribes, are proud of what we have achieved.



Sistah Scribes

COLLECTIVE

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For Immediate Release
March 19, 2024

Sistah Scribes releases their sophomore project "Shaking Off the Dust: Raising Our Voices"

The new anthology offers more inspirational and motivational stories of triumph!



Shaking off the Dust: Raising Our Voices, the second in the Shaking off the Dust by the Sistah Scribes Writers Collective, speaks loudly about the power of women to raise their voices to right wrongs, to encourage others, and to speak truth to power. These six women share how they claimed and raised their voices in various situations and conditions.

The book is dedicated to the late Dr. Bishop Barbara L. King, international spiritual leader, founder of Hillside International Truth Center, and a woman who was known for her audacity to enter a world where women were to submit their voices, instead, she spoke loud and clear about the human condition, injustice and the need to live for truth and speak words of life. She made a difference to men, women, and children across the globe. Four of the six writers met at Hillside International Truth Center, three of whom are ministers.

The stories are sure to be familiar to many women because they tell the lives of women who have had to use their voices to claim their own power, protect themselves, and empower others.

- Readers will be inspired by the three short stories by a woman who learned spiritual lessons through not only her mother's voice but also the sound of a bird.
- One story takes the author from questioning the pastor to becoming a minister, providing answers to spiritual questions.
- You will learn where you begin is not your destiny. A sharecropper's daughter describes her journey from the field to speaking truth to power in the highest professions in the land.
- Challenging patriarchy can be difficult, especially when your father expresses it; a young woman raises her voice in protest and decides her destiny.
- Words hurt, especially when you don't fit in. This coming-of-age story highlights the struggle of a girl who comes to terms with her weight and uses her voice to challenge perceptions.
- One writer demonstrates how her mental alertness and voice protected her from a heinous crime.

The goal of Sistah Scribes is to inspire and encourage women to persevere through their challenges, knowing that they, too, can raise their voices and share their stories to help other women and men raise theirs.

March is Women's History Month, and in this volume of work, Sistah Scribes joins the many women who have historically believed their truth was worth telling.

More information about *Shaking off the Dust: Raising Our Voices* is available at www.sistahscribes.com.

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About The Authors



Patricia (Pat) Desamours

Patricia is a veteran journalist with decades of experience in broadcasting and communications. Her career includes more than 20 years at CNN in roles ranging from CNN Headline News anchor, CNN Radio anchor and reporter to Producer and Managing Editor.

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DeAnna Parks-Jones

DeAnna is passionate about life. Her talents and interests have found her running a 26-mile marathon in Hawaii, doing comedy on the Atlanta Punchline stage, facilitating workshops, or spending time with her talented family and gifted grands.

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Rev. Marcia White Laster

Marcia White Laster is an ordained minister, educator, and author but most of all she is a master teacher whose greatest passion is to see everyone realize the highest possibility for their lives.

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Chaplain (Reverend) JoAnne Nelson, J.D., MDiv, BCC.

JoAnne is an ordained minister in the Missionary Baptist and Interdenominational faith traditions. She is also a board-certified chaplain with the National Association of Veteran Affairs Chaplains and endorsed by the Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches.

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Angela Harrington Rice

Angela is an author, teacher, speaker, storyteller and an advocate for love and peace. She serves as the Executive Director of Interfaith Community Initiatives, a non-profit organization committed to cultivating collaboration among individuals from diverse faith backgrounds.

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Angella Vincentie Bramwell, LCSW

Angella was born in Jamaica, West Indies. She has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for over three decades providing therapeutic support for individuals and families in crisis.

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Chapter Summaries

Chapter 1

"My Voice: Whispers and Screams" by JoAnne Nelson

My Voice: Whispers and Screams chronicles a journey of both timidity and courage. Good DNA, a solid upbringing, strong faith, good education, meaningful life work, and experiences should have been sufficient to guarantee me a consistently strong voice throughout life. However, they were not. As the only child of sharecroppers, I struggled to find my voice at various times in my life despite having parents who knew just the right time to raise theirs to protest and oppose an injustice about their own mistreatment or that of their friend.

Chapter 2

"She Bull" by Angella Vincentie Bramwell

This chapter is about a Jamaican absentee father who lived in the Bronx, New York, for almost two decades before his 20-year-old daughter joined him there to live with his wife and their eight-year-old son. He was a generous man with good intentions towards his family, and he had sexist ideas while his daughter was ambitious, had feminist ideas, and faulted him for his absence during her earlier life. This made for a warlike relationship until they came to learn about each other through sharing stories about their past.

Chapter 3

"My Spirit Owl Speaks" by DeAnna Parks Jones

The Spirit Owl Speaks is a narrative about the sacredness of eternal life. The author shares how one man's life journey on earth ends with his death, he continues on to the afterlife and returns in the spirit of an owl. This is no ordinary spirit owl. His endearing return leaves an indelible impression on his family and friends.

Chapter 4

"The Driver" by Marcia White Laster

The author describes how she learned the power of her voice to assist, uplift, speak out, report, and eventually to save her life. The story follows the author through her life experiences at 6 years, 9 years, 13 years, 16 years and 18 years old from the late 50's, and 60's, to 1970. It magnifies the scripture (Proverbs 18:21) that says "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

Chapter Summaries

The Driver” continued

She discovers at 6 years old that she is deemed wrong, by her teacher, for speaking up and helping a friend. At 9 years old she is complimented for being observant and truthful. As a teenager, she raised her voice and marched with other students for civil rights in her high school and was arrested. The arrest was later expunged. The high school was in a N.Y. school district that Martin Luther King Jr, visited and aligned with the black community. The school board was denying the state court order to desegregate the schools. The same year the author was denied the opportunity to speak and be recognized openly by the entire student body and all the teachers and administrators for her high academic achievement and induction into the National Honor Society. She was recognized by mail after the event was held.

At 18, feeling no fear, she chose to hitchhike and was almost killed by the driver who picked her up. It was her voice and demeanor that helped save her and talk him out of rape or murder. She realized it was God's grace and her determination to live that saved her. She understood how precious life is and instantly believed that we all operate under divine guidance. She had become the driver of her life.

Chapter 5

“Facing Fear In the Face of God” by DeAnna Park Jones

Facing Fear in the Face of God deals with what it means in one day to be faced with one terrifying obstacle after another, find the courage to keep moving, and be unstoppable in the face of fear. The fear was endured in prayer until the miraculous victory was won and transformed the face of fear.

Chapter 6

“Finding My Voice: Journey of a Lifetime” by DeAnna Park Jones

The *Journey of a Lifetime* is rooted and grounded with a young woman who is awakened to her deep love and profound appreciation for her mother. The discovery of this love unfolds as she works through a project with her psychology class, inside an assimilated birthing room, on a college campus.

Chapter Summaries

Chapter 7

"Embracing the Sunshine" by Patricia Desamours

Embracing the Sunshine is a coming-of-age story that shows you can be happy and fulfilled at any age, even if it takes you decades to figure it out.

It tells the story of a woman whose life was dominated by weight. As an overweight child, she compensated by seeking love from people who could not provide it. Her dreams of being normal were always complicated by being fat and Black. She was prone to give up her bodily autonomy at times in the search for what she thought and hoped was love. But it was always in vain.

She endured humiliation, sexual molestation, and low self-esteem as an adolescent and as a young woman. Her search for love led to three marriages, three divorces, and a lot of pain in between. But that pain and search for love eventually lead to a realization that she is more than enough. She begins to embrace the sunshine and see her golden reflection. She finally understands that loving yourself is more than a cliché. It is a truth that restores her hope and leads her to celebrate the life she has, knowing she is worthy of love.

Chapter 8

"Talking Back" by Angela Harrington Rice

Embark on an inspiring journey through the captivating life of Angela Harrington Rice in "Talking Back." This compelling narrative traces her evolution from a bold child unafraid to challenge the preacher's sermon to a fearless television host who fearlessly engaged with her guests. As the pages unfold, witness Angela's remarkable transformation into a minister, passionately espousing the profound words of God.

"Talking Back" not only shares the details of Angela's path to self-discovery but also serves as a powerful affirmation of her right to speak her mind. Throughout the book, she celebrates the personal growth garnered along this transformative journey. Join Angela as she navigates the twists and turns of life, embracing her true self and leaving an indelible mark on the world with her unwavering commitment to talking back with authenticity and conviction.