

Pearls & GEMS

Mini Mag to Inspire Today's Urban Girl

DOUBLE ISSUE
April/May 2019
Vol. 1 No 4 & 5

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My Senior Year
Experience!**

**Summer
Workshops
& Classes...**

*Etiquette
Essentials*

QUEENS
QA
ACADEMY

Youth
Convention
"REAL
TALK!"

God First

**Are You A Good
Friend?**

**QUIZ
& more...**

A Thank
You Note
To Mom

Faith, Friends & Mom Too!

Lady Cynthia & Ms. Celena

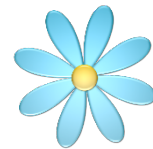


Hello GEMS! We have made this a double issue by combining the months of April and May into one magazine. Faith, Family and Friends are really important. So for April we understand how important it is to put **"God First"**. As the school year is coming to an end family is there (especially mom) to help you prepare for that big day Graduation! We hope you enjoy reading **"My Senior Year Experience"** by our newest contributing writer, India Mason.

Relationships are important. That means having good friends is a good thing. However, in order to have good friends, you must also be a good friend --are you? Take the quiz and find out. Read about what it takes to be a **"True Friend."** Also check out the devotional **"Can God Be My Friend?"** Something to think about. In the month of May we celebrate Mother's Day! We hope enjoy reading **"A Thank You Note to Mom"** which is written by another new contributing writer, Lady Renita Jackson. She is the current President of the National Association of Urban Etiquette Professionals. You will also love **"Mom & Me"** and the poem **"Love for a Mother"** as we honor the women who make such an impact in our lives. Happy reading GEMS!

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A Thank You Note to Mom:

By Renita Jackson

❖ For allowing your body to be used and a human incubator grow to develop mine. For nine months you carried me inside of you. Maybe more if I decided to

be stubborn and stay inside your warm body for even longer. Or, maybe less when I decided I wanted to meet the world sooner. You were sick for mornings and nights, you endured stretch marks, weight gain and labor pains all to give birth to me. **Thank you.**

- ❖ For fostering, nurturing, raising or adopting me. **Thank you.**
- ❖ I cried, I was sick, and sometimes you weren't sure exactly what was wrong with me, but you rocked me, walked me, fed me, changed me, talked to me, cuddled me and stayed up all night with me to comfort me. **Thank you.**
- ❖ For supporting me, in school plays, field trips, sporting events, musical recitals, science projects, dance lessons and in life, you've always been my biggest cheerleader! **Thank you.**
- ❖ Guiding me from preschool to graduation, first dates, to first job, marriage and my kids. **Thank you.**
- ❖ Teaching, listening, guiding, watching, allowing, praying, correcting and simply knowing when, where and how I needed you to be there for me. **Thank you.**
- ❖ Spiritual direction. . . **Thank you.**
- ❖ For being a wonderful Mom. . . **Thank God for you!**





Hey Rockstars!!🏆🏃...

You are almost there. Ready to cross over the finish line of another year done. Don't give up, don't stop doing what you set out to do because you think it's too hard, or you're feeling a little overwhelmed right now. Take a moment, however long that moment is, breathe, say to God, "let's do this!"

When you get a chance, read **Proverbs 24:16** (Message or New Living Translation).

I've been there, where I didn't finished what I started, because I thought it was too hard and I wasn't smart enough. However, what I have learned is that the key to finishing what you start is being consistent. Which meant planning ahead (which I did not do), counting up the cost (what am I getting myself into and what am I willing to sacrifice), being determined to get it done, and having a great support system (mom, dad, mentors) to help you along the way. It's really important to remember when you have a goal and you believe in that goal to NEVER GIVE UP. Your actions to work diligently towards it will always bring you success. God's love and patience is always consistent and I thank

Him for not giving up on me. He will never give up on you either. I challenge you to be consistent in every part of your life (faith, family, and friends), because consistency will help you to meet your goals. Let's say it once again...**GOD, LET'S DO THIS!**

PRAYER:

HI GOD, IT'S ME! I desire to be successful in life and I know that it takes willingness and consistency on my part. I thank you that all good works start and end with you. Thank you for starting a great work of ideas in me. Thank you for loving me and being patient with me. Help me to do my part in being disciplined and trust you to do what only you can do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

😊...Just a thought for you today

MOM & ME

By Shaquida Ano

A mentor is an experienced and trusted advisor. I believe every girl needs a mentor. Often times we look outside for mentors, but if you look closely, you will find a mentor right within your home. A mother is a girl's very first mentor. Think about it, your mother is

the first person to teach, lead and guide you. Your mother is usually the first person to give you advice.

A mother daughter relationship is a very special relationship. It is a bond that should not be broken. In most cases a mother teaches her daughter everything that she has learned in life. It is a mother's greatest desire for her daughter to be better than she could ever be. Therefore, she pours everything she has into her daughter. She gives her daughter the wisdom, knowledge and information needed to succeed. A mother's goal is to protect her daughter. Sometime her desire to protect is misunderstood for a desire to control the daughter's life. This misunderstanding often causes a problem in the relationship. It causes the daughter to reject the mother's advice, wisdom and knowledge. Sometimes the daughter will even reject the mother's love. Let me give you an example. My daughter is 13 years old and she's starting to make friends outside of our community. She recently asked me to visit a friend who lives in a different neighborhood. She wanted to walk to the friend's house. It's only natural for a mother to want her daughter to be safe, so I asked her a few questions before making a decision.

The questions were:

1. Where does she live?
2. How far away is it?
3. Who's walking with you?
4. Is the parent's home?
5. What's the mom's number?

I was not asking the questions because I didn't want her to go, but I was asking because I wanted to make sure she was going to be safe, if she went. My daughter perceived my questioning as I didn't want her to go and she got upset, which resulted in an unnecessary argument. She perceived my love and concern as a desire to control her life. The truth of the matter was that I understood the dangers of the world. I was not fearful, but I wanted her to use wisdom. It is no secret that abduction, rape and molestation are on the rise. Her walking alone to unfamiliar community was not wise. As a result of me asking the questions, my daughter shutdown and rejected my advice. I was very upset. If she would have answered the questions, I could have offered solutions. I would have offered to drop her off and picked her up or maybe I would've asked her Dad to do the same. What I've learned is that simple communication is the answer to a lot of the problems in the mother daughter relationship. Mothers and Daughters should talk things out. They should discuss problems and commit to working together to resolve issues.

A daughter must be open to receive instruction and learn from her mom. A mother must be willing to listen and be flexible when possible. This will help them both to grow. Daughters be open to allowing your mom to be your mentor. A good mom will always lead you in the right direction. The next time that you get angry with your mom, talk to her about it. Ask her to explain to you why she made a decision. Most moms are willing to talk, if you will listen. Never let anything come between your relationship with your mom. You only get one mom. Never assume she won't understand you. Be willing to be open and honest with her at all times. This will help her to better help you. A mother daughter relationship is not only a mentor relationship, but it's a partnership. Partner with your mom. Ask her opinions and seek her advice. She will respond because loves you, unconditionally. Be willing to forgive mistakes and learns from one another. No matter what Always, **RESPECT, HONOR and OBEY!!!**



NEXT CLASS



A relationship is a connection to someone be it family or friend. Every time you have to deal with someone continually you are considered to be in a relationship with them. Learn the difference between a good and bad relationship, how to pick good friends, and how to be a good friend.



**Healthy
&
Unhealthy
Relationships**

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TODAY!**

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**9100 Edgeworth Dr.
Capitol Heights, MD
20743**

Contact Shaquida Ano Email: daughtersaftergodsheart@gmail.com

Other Classes:

- ❖ Jul 13 - "Intimacy with God: Pretty Girls Pray"
- ❖ Aug 10 - "Classy vs Trashy: Dressing for Success"
- ❖ Sep 14 - "Make-up Application"
- ❖ Oct 12 - "Career Development"
- ❖ Nov 9 - "Dining and Social Etiquette/Poised for Success"
- ❖ Dec 14 - "Taking Care of the Temple"

2020

- ❖ Jan 11 - "Girls Who Cook"

Queens Academy

The Queens Academy is a 8 month esteem building program established to teach, train, and equip young ladies to successfully navigate life. We believe that girls can avoid many pitfalls with the proper information, love and encouragement. Queens Academy is a safe place where girls can connect with other girls, develop sisterhood bonds, and practice making healthy choices while learning important life-skills that will last a life time.

Contact Mrs. Shaquida Ano

Email:
daughtersaftergodsheart@gmail.com



Last summer, I was given the opportunity to be one of the delegates to go to the Annual Session of the GMBC Congress of Christian Education and Children and Youth Convention. While there I took a class called "Real Talk". My instructor was Rev. Sean Brewton from Ludowici, GA.

What is Real Talk???

'Real Talk' is basically a class where the teacher gives you a topic about current events and you just have a group discussion.

One of our biggest topics was intentionally hurting someone's feelings. This made me think of my family and friends. I thought about how I like to be treated and how you can hurt someone unintentionally. We were given a situation where you and a made up girl named Aaliyah had been friends since you were in the fifth grade. Ever since you met her, she smelled a little funny. You never spoke about it to her. You want to tell her, but don't want to hurt her feelings. So what do you do? The class was getting out of hand with different suggestions. Our teacher talked about God and Abraham's relationships and how the bible says that they were friends based on scripture in **2 Chronicles 20:7**, **Isaiah 41:8**, and **James 2:23**. They had a relationship of acceptance, respect, and obedience. Abraham believed God and because of his faith, God accepted him as

righteous. Even though he was obedient to God, **Romans 4** makes it clear that his salvation was not earned by works, but through faith in the promise of God for our Savior. In relationships in general, you need to be able to trust them because you will want family and friends that are there for you and that you know will support your dreams. They should give you their honest opinions on your life because it's your family; your friend. Our teacher said that constructive criticism is supposed to shape us and make us to be better people. Sometimes we need to let go of our feelings, listen, and accept that what we are being told just might be right. It's hard to change regardless of age, but make an attempt to change.

Another big topic was on music. Rev. Brewton asked us what type of music we like to listen to. The majority of the class

said rap music. He asked if we thought that the words the rappers are saying are godly. One boy said yes because there are some Christian rappers like KB, Lecrae, and Andy Mineo who give reference to God. Rev. Brewton said that those rappers may be fine, but not all rappers. It is not godly to curse, call someone out of their name, and say provocative things in a song. Talk to your family and friends, especially those who are younger than you. Let them know that it's ok to listen to a variety of music. Just remember **1 Thessalonians 5:21**. Remember to not live your life based on the words in a song, but words from God.

The last topic was really a game called "What Would Jesus Do; Are You Game?"

My scenario was you are with your friend and your brother comes to you while you're in a deep conversation. He is being very disrespectful and demands for you to help him because he is in a hurry to go somewhere. I said I would stop talking with my friend and help my brother. Rev. Brewton said that was right and if someone comes at you disrespectfully, no matter how disrespectful it is, sometimes we just need to let them have their attitude. We need to rise above the pettiness and do what we need to do. If we sit there, have

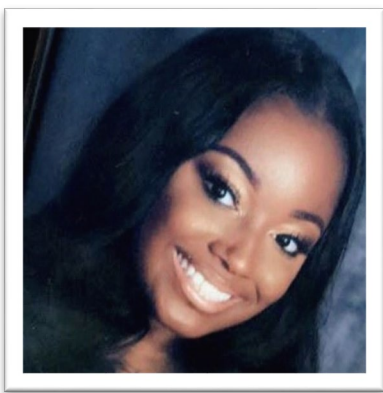
an attitude, and hold a grudge, you're not doing anything productive and that can lead to negative thoughts. **2 Timothy 2:23-24** sums this up nicely where it states *"Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil..."* (ESV).

What I learned

My take away from this is that sometimes, we have to learn how to receive constructive criticism even if I don't want to hear it. I also need to watch how I give constructive criticism because some people may take it the wrong way. You should let them know you're not trying to be disrespectful. People are not always going to interact with you or look at you the way you want them to, but we need to still open up to them. If they have an attitude or a bad vibe, just ignore that and have a better attitude. At the end of the day, it's not worth it. If Jesus had a bad attitude with us, we wouldn't be sitting here today. If we are true Christians, we should not only respect and love those that we know, but those we do not know either.



A friend
LOVES
at all times



The Class of **2019**

MY SENIOR YEAR EXPERIENCE

By India Mason

*M*y senior year experience was stressful. Balancing school, a job, SAT exams, college applications, scholarship requirements and a personal life was quite challenging. However, I can finally say I am glad I got through it and graduation is fast approaching. As a senior, I had to learn how to prioritize and become better at time management. My senior experience required keeping up with my school work while juggling other activities such as Vice President of the Student Government Council and other school projects. Also, seniors are required to complete a capstone project as a graduation requirement which made the senior year even more stressful.

*C*apstone is a project that required research on a topic, a 12 page paper, a PowerPoint presentation, project/volunteer hours, and a 30 minute presentation that is presented and judge by a panel which becomes your final English grade. The topic I chose was Educating Others about Lupus which is very dear to my heart. My godmother died from Lupus complications in April 2015 and I want to help find a cure and spread awareness. Although, it was very stressful, I received a 98% by the grace of God and the help of my mother. As a senior, I learned how to prioritize, time management, leadership and communication skills and that I will need God when going through stressful times and throughout life.

*S*tepping out to college in the fall is going to take getting use to and an adjustment. I am a little fearful and know having Christ in my life I will get through it. Also, my mom instilled great values and I live in a home where Christ is the center of our lives. I will attend Morgan State University majoring in Information Systems and minoring in Business. This is a very exciting time and a new chapter and I cannot wait to become a college student. I know it will be challenging; but I am ready to focus and know my education is priority and I can start focusing on my career of choice. Lastly, I know having God by my side that I will succeed in college and make my family and myself proud.

Can God Be My Friend?

Do you know what it means to have a relationship with someone?

The word relationship means you are connected to someone for a reason. Think about your relationship with your mom or dad. God connected you with them so you would have someone to take care of you. God gave you teachers to help you learn.

Can you think of a few other people you have a good relationship with? People at school, at church, or even in your family? You probably don't feel close to them right away. And you may notice that you are closer to the people you spend the most time with right? By playing together, sitting next to each other in class, talking to each other, and hanging out, you learn what makes them happy and what makes them sad. You get to know their personality and they get to know yours. Over time you become really good friends!


Do you know that God what to have a relationship with you too? Just like the relationship you have with friends, the more time you spend together with God the more you get to know him. The Bible says, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (**2 Peter 3:18**). God want you to learn all about Him. He wants you to know what makes Him happy and what makes him sad. But most of all, He wants you to lean all about His love. Spending time together is a big deal and it is really the only way to get to know someone. How can you spend time getting to know God today?

Does your schedule get really busy? Don't forget to make time to spend alone with God. Sometimes you have to plan a date with Him. Plan ahead for a few special moments with God. Write down the time and place where you are going to meet Him and write out an agenda (*Agenda is just a fancy word for plan*). Decide how you will spend your time with Him and think about what you'll talk about.

TIME: _____

PLACE: _____

AGENDA/PLAN: _____



Love for a Mother

By Raymona Pillow

**She is the person who takes care of us through the
winter and summer;**

**She is the one who stands by you when things get
tough.**

You are loved with all our heart;

We just cannot thank you enough.

Enjoy this day for yourself.

Accept all of your gifts;

Know that they are sent with love.

Thank you for everything.

This includes the pennies and dimes.

But most of all, we thank God for you.

Next to Him, you supply all our needs;

You never let us down.

When we need you, you're right on time.

You may be a mother, sister, aunt, friend or mentor.

**You are loved and appreciated; not only on this day,
but every day!**

Happy Mother's Day!



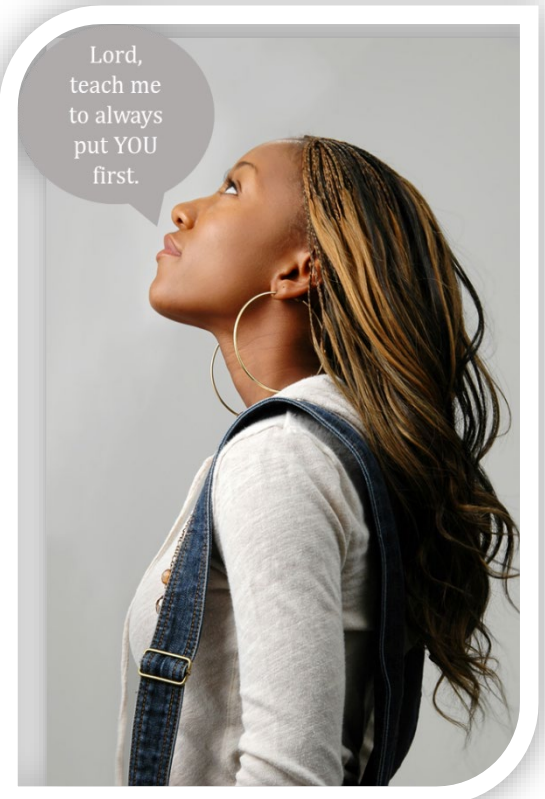
God First

By Shaquida Ano

As young ladies it's important to prioritize your life. Prioritize means to decide what's important to you and deal with them in the order of importance. If you do not decide what's important to you, you run the risk of living a chaotic and unorganized life. A life without order and organization is a pathway to failure. As you mature in life, it's important that you take time to consider what's important to you! If you were to make a list of things that are important to you, faith, family and friends should **always** top the list, but God First! Sometimes life can become very busy. I want you to think about your daily task. Your daily task are the things you have to do every day. *As a teen my daily task list was as follows:*

1. Get dressed for school
2. Walk to school
3. Walk home from school
4. Get an afternoon snack
5. Do homework
6. Do my chores
7. Go outside for a few hour
8. Somedays I went to Church with Granny
9. Come in and prepare for school the next day
10. Watch TV
11. Fall sleep.

As I got older the list grew longer and longer. There were so many things to do and not enough time in the day. As a teen I



sometimes forgot to make God part of my day. Not Cool, because He was the reason I was able to live each day. He blessed me with the Gift of life. He deserved my time more than anything. I want to encourage you that no matter what you have going on in life, you must make time for God. God would fall under the faith category. Faith means to put your complete trust in someone or something. We should all place our faith in God. This means that we believe God to take care of everything in our lives. We trust Him to work things out for us even when it seems impossible. He desires for us to love Him with our whole heart. We show our love and appreciation to him by spending time with him. We give him first priority. Some may question how do we spend time with God. We spend time with

God by praying and reading His word which is the Bible. We spend time with God when we read Christian books and go to church. We spend time with God when we gather with other people who love him. God lives on the inside of us, so we can talk to him throughout the day and he hears us. I want you to make a list of priorities. Remember, priorities are things that are important to you. As you make your list of priorities, put God at the top of the list. Show him you love and appreciate him by talking to him every day. Try praying in the morning. That way we give him the first part of our day. Prayer is a conversation with God. Talk to him before you start preparing for school. Here's a simple prayer to help you get started.



Father God in the name of Jesus thank you for blessing me with the gift of life. I appreciate you. I ask that you help me to do good throughout the day. I ask that you teach me how to be more like you. Help me to run from evil and cling to what is good. I pray that your angels would protect me all the days of my life. Bless my family and friends. Keep us safe from all harm. Continue to meet our needs. Help me to do well in school and my extra-curricular activities. Order my steps and direct my paths. I love you with my whole heart. Amen



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2

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1

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True Friend

By Celena Pillow

You got my back,

And I got yours.

Your words keep me from giving up on
myself.

When I cry,

You cry right along with me.

You tell me what I need to hear,

Even though I don't want to hear it.

And I may get mad,

Even not want to talk to you for a minute;

But you don't care, how I'm acting,

Cause, what you said, is going to help me in
the long run.

And I thank you for that.

We laugh together, even at things that are
not funny;

But it's funny to us, because that's the kind
of bond we share.

We can talk for hours, about nothing;

But that's ok, because we enjoy each other's
company.

We can tell when something is wrong with
each other,

Cause we've been friends for that long.

And if we ever move away from each other,

We will do our best to stay connected.

Cause we are best friends, family,

Sister's to the end of time.

To Have Friends, You Must First Be A Friend!

If a friend needs you...

- a. You're available any hour of the day or night.
- b. You try to be there, but only during school hours.
- c. You'll help even after school, but only when it's convenient.
- d. You'll help, but only if that friend has helped you in the past.

Your friends are...

- a. Very diverse.
- b. Only somewhat diverse
- c. Exactly like you (same race; same status)
- d. Me, myself, and I



Think about your closest friend. That friend can get you to...

- a. Take a risk and see life in a different way.
- b. Come out of your shell.
- c. Do your best even when you don't feel like it.
- d. Believe in the good of at least one person - that friend.

You have...

- a. All best friends - you don't make a distinction between friends.
- b. One best friend and a few close friends.
- c. Several friends and acquaintances.
- d. Few friends. You prefer to be alone.

When it comes to making friends, you...

- a. Make them easily.
- b. Take a while to open yourself up to people.
- c. Are friendly, but reserved.
- d. Relate only to those who have the exact same interests. And that's very few right now!

If your friend did something you believed wrong, you would...

- a. Stick by her, but avoid tattling on her.
- b. Talk to her, telling her you'll have to turn her in.
- c. Think for yourself, refusing to be influenced by her.
- d. Avoid her from now on.



HOW FRIENDLY ARE YOU?



If you are mostly **As**, you're "**Friendly Fawn**". You're a friend almost to a fault.

If you are mostly **Bs**, you're "**Careful Cara**." You have friends, but they are hard to come by.

If you are mostly **Cs**, you're "**Stick-to-Your-Guns Gwen**". You know what you want and you don't allow others to influence you - not even friends.

If you are mostly **Ds**, you're "**Loner Lucy**." You prefer to be alone.

Wishing our **APRIL & MAY** Pearls & GEMs!



Last Note from The Editor

School is about to end and summer is on the way! June will be your last issue as **Pearls and GEMs** will take a summer break in July and August.

We will be back in September with the "Back to School" issue.

We really hope you have enjoyed the magazine so far as much as we have enjoyed creating it for you.

Ms. Celena



Pearls & GEMS

Mini Mag to Inspire Today's Urban Girl

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Pearls & GEMS Mini-Mag is part of Pure Beauty Ministry

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