

SALON (AND PERSONAL) UPDATES

As we slide into the summer, I must confess that it's been a minute since I put the proverbial "pen to paper" for the creation of this missive. I honestly have been *out of commission*. It took a comical nudge from a dear soul for me to take heart and write. Why the long delay? Well, my hero and my heart—[Arthur Earl Hawthorne](#), better known as my Dad, passed away on April 5th. On March 22nd, he had invasive surgery arising from complications of multiple myeloma chemotherapy treatment. He never recovered. (The link above is to his tribute page on the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation website.) Needless to say, I was out of the salon (and every "normal" aspect of my life) for quite some time. In late March, I was temporarily stationed in Virginia to sit at my Dad's side throughout his transition home. Though the experience was spiritually challenging, I have always been fascinated with death and dying. This was my first experience witnessing the process so closely. During this time, I heard my Dad speak of seeing a light (I believe the *Father of lights*) and I heard him speak of angels. Do I need any more confirmation of what I already know about the hereafter? I am so happy for my father because I know where he is and how he is. And yet, I am sad about the void left in his absence. But, I will see him again. I give thanks. And when I do, I'll fly away from this Earth plane with all of the exuberance of that five year old child who would welcome him home after a period of separation. Special thanks to Jamie who truly rose to the occasion during my absence and managed things beautifully at the salon.

Through this trial, I missed my speaking engagement at the Baltimore Natural Hair Care Expo on March 24th. I want to express my deepest appreciation to Malaika Cooper, founder of the Natural Hair Care Expo forum, for taking me off the program when I was indecisive about letting her down because of my circumstances. She was both gracious and encouraging and helped to strengthen my resolve with her own testimonial. I was truly where I needed to be. Thank you, my sister. My apologies to those who may have wanted to attend my class. All I can say is, "Come to the NC Show!" Check out the write-up and link to the right for more details on the expo! It has honestly taken some time for me to get my groove back. But trust: by the time I'm ready to present at the NC Natural Hair Care Expo, I'll be "on and poppin'!!" ☺



NC NATURAL HAIRCARE EXPO JUNE 16-17, 2012

This year's NC Natural Hair care Expo will be held at the Dream Center of the Body of Christ Church. It is located at 5616 Fox Rd., Raleigh, NC 27616. The show is from 11am-7pm on Saturday and 1-6pm on Sunday. Admission is \$10. For more information, check out the website at: <http://www.northcarolinanaturalhaircareexpo.com/>

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue is mainly about promoting local entrepreneurship. The NC Natural Haircare Expo is sponsored by local and regional businesses and provides a marketing platform for many more! The main article in this issue provides a flavor for what I will discuss in my expo lecture. The next article highlights a new Black-owned bakery business run by a natural sister based in Zebulon, NC—Sydra Todd. She's featured on our website in the Amazing Transformations gallery. Her cakes are divine so why not give her a try. She is a true artist in design, texture and taste. This issue is honestly concise but like fine wine, good things sometimes come in small portions. Next time, we'll pray for a shower of rain! ☺

AU NATUREL

SCHATZI'S DESIGN GALLERY & DAY SPA, LLC

APRIL-MAY 2012

MY EXPO SESSION: NATURAL HAIR - HONEST ANSWERS AND WORKABLE SOLUTIONS

While the natural hair care expo has lots of banging hairstyles, a generous supply of entertainment, tons of natural products and fellowship time, I personally think the strength of the event is the lectures. (I'm not saying that because I'm a speaker. Truly!) The reason I say this is that there are so many sisters out there with questions, insecurities and concerns. Some often note that visiting a natural hair salon doesn't really guarantee that those questions will be answered. We would like to believe that our salon is an exception on this score. I personally find myself spending a fair amount of time educating clients about their hair while I'm styling. But, it is a delicate balancing act to do so without sounding "preachy." No offense. ☺

Anyway, the expo provides the perfect venue to get questions answered. My sessions are typically packed with information and thought provoking ideas designed to challenge the status quo. The downside is that there is often little time for follow-up discussion in the one hour available. So this year, I'm restructuring my talk to allow the participants to frame the discussion. Trust me! I'm gon' say what I gotta say! ☺ I'm just going to make the delivery less structured and more interactive. Those who attend will be edified through group learning and sharing. Check it out! The following quote is an excerpt from one of my past lectures, just to provide a flavor for the information shared. It's raw but then you live once. Why not speak truth. If challenged on my conclusions, I would honestly love to be proven wrong...

"I've often wondered how some brothers (my own cousin as a prime example) can come out of the womb of Africa, reach manhood and then pronounce that they want nothing to do with sisters when dating. I don't wonder anymore because I know. The struggle of every living entity on Earth is to overcome adversity and to thrive. So if Momma's "hatin'" on herself, why would any young man want to pass that legacy on to his children? Look at Hollywood and the entertainment industry, for example. Sisters would rather paste hundreds and thousands of dollars worth of Indian and Asian lace front wigs and hair weaves on their heads rather than to be seen in public with their own hair! How deep is that? So when brothers consider the options available to them (and there are many), they choose freedom and lack of restraint. I aint mad at the brothers. 'Cause if it was the norm for brothers to bleach out their skin to become lighter, I'd frankly rather have a hot and sexy Italian guy who doesn't have to work quite so hard for his natural beauty."



SCHATZI LECTURING AT THE NC NATURAL HAIR CARE EXPO - JUN 2011



SESSION PARTICIPANTS AT THE NC NATURAL HAIR CARE EXPO - JUN 2011



Next time you need a birthday cake, why not support a local sister who is making waves in the confectionery industry--Sydra Todd

SWEETHANDS CONFECTIONERY

SWEETHANDS CONFECTIONERY:

SYDRA TODD'S LABOR OF LOVE

One thing that I love to do with this newsletter is to support local Black businesses. Some of you who have been tracking our salon for a while will remember Shaundrelle Todd—one of our first salon stylists and a dear friend to my heart! Well, her sister is Sydra Todd of [Sweet Hands Confectionery](#). She owns a bakery business based in Zebulon, NC. A graduate of Johnson & Wales University of Charleston, SC, Sydra has now decided to apply her knowledge and training to a venture of her own creation. Sweet Hands Confectionery is not a store-front but a pre-paid email/text/or phone order service, with an upcoming expansion to internet ordering too! Delivery service is available. No more running to Wal-mart after work to pick up the cake before you get home for your child's birthday. (Okay, maybe that's just me. ☺) Now, the business is handmade, homemade just for you!

Sydra traditionally made cakes as a hobby but quickly learned that her love and passion for the work was sufficient to carry her into the entrepreneurial fray. In her words, *"Sweet Hands Confectionery has truly been a gift from God. It...has turned into a divine passion! I thank God for the gift!"*

The thing that draws people to *Sweet Hands* is Sydra's uncanny ability to mix & match flavors and ingredients for a sweet treat creation that is original for you! At *Sweet Hands* EVERYTHING is customized! Sydra prides herself on taking southern classics such as peach cobbler, strawberry shortcake & banana pudding and turning them all into cakes and cupcakes! But it doesn't end there, she also makes beautiful chocolate dipped strawberries & chocolate covered oreos! Need your child's favorite cartoon character cake for a birthday party? How about a special graduation cake? Or a designer couture cake just because? Or better yet, do you have a function coming up and don't know what you're going to do about dessert? Call on *Sweet Hands*! They accommodate gluten free, vegan, diabetic and other special dietary needs? *Sweet Hands* has you covered! They aim to please!

[Sweet Hands](#) is "Hand making your sweet treats one bite at a time!" So, why not make a commitment to try them out for your next culinary occasion.

TYPES OF SWEET TREATS AVAILABLE

Birthday Cakes – Fondant, Buttercream, Airbrush, Couture, Licensed Characters and Traditional Designs

Wedding Cakes – Fondant and Buttercream, Tiered or single layers, Cupcake Towers

Designer Cakes for Births, Graduation and General Celebration

Berry Treats like strawberry shortcake or chocolate-covered strawberries

Pies including pecan, sweet potato and dutch apple (fruit)

Old-time Favorites like German Chocolate Cake and Cheesecake

Cookies and cupcakes of all kinds, even hand crafted chocolate lollipops! (Cupcakes sizes include mini, regular, jumbo & giant!)

AU NATUREL

SCHATZI'S DESIGN GALLERY & DAY SPA, LLC

Embrace the Beauty of You.



ABOUT US

Founded in 2006, *Schatzi's* is the first full service natural hair salon established in Raleigh, NC. Our aim is to elevate the quality of service received by you, the client. Our corporate culture is integrity first and a healthy respect for the client's time. If for any reason, you wish to speak to the owner, please request Schatzi's cell phone number from the receptionist. We welcome all feedback and aim always to improve. We are located in the Park on Millbrook Condominium Complex in the "baby blue" townhouse. Check out our website at www.schatzisdayspa.com for a full description of our salon services.

Au Naturel newsletter is an essential part of our information sharing services. First published in September 2006, it is designed to provide information on news, events, styles and fashion for natural divas locally and nationally! We're always open to suggestions for future articles.

Our motto is "Embrace the Beauty of You." Come, relax and enjoy!

EMBRACE THE BEAUTY OF YOU.

www.schatzisdayspa.com

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