

Did You Know?

By Jamie Manuel

Have you ever wondered who came up with the idea of straightening African-American women's hair? Well, one woman's dream became a reality in the early 1900's. Madame C.J. Walker, born Sarah Breedlove, took it upon herself to revolutionize hair-care products for African-American women. At the age of 14, Madame C.J. Walker worked as a washerwoman and attended school in the evening in Louisiana. During this time, Walker's hair began to fall out. One night she had a dream about a cure for hair loss. Later, she found the ingredients, mixed them together and tried the mixture on her hair. The formula worked on her hair and she began to sell her new product. Her business expanded and she moved to Denver, Colorado where she met her husband, Charles Walker. Not only did Madame C.J. Walker gain fame for her hair-care products, but she is best known for her invention of the pressing comb and conditioner for straightening hair. In 1910, Walker established a factory in Indianapolis where she employed 5,000 African-American women. Walker was also an active community leader. She gave thousands of dollars to the Tuskegee Institute, the NAACP, and other African-American charities. She also helped establish the Mary McLeod Bethune School, now known as Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona, Florida. Madame C.J. Walker followed her dream and became America's first African-American woman millionaire. When she died in 1919, she left an estate valued at two million dollars. ☼

Book of Black Heroes-Great Women in the Struggle, 1991

What's Happening?

THE ALVIN AILEY REPERTORY ENSEMBLE

a Gala Performance to benefit the new home of the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1999

8 PM

Memorial Hall, UNC - Chapel Hill

Honorary Gala Co-Chairs:

Richard "Stick" Williams

Lauren Lorentz deHaas

TICKETS: BCC PATRON	\$75
BCC SPONSOR	\$50
General Public/Faculty	\$30
Students	\$15

or tickets call the Union Box Office (919) 962-1449
or further information, please call (919) 962-9001

The new home of the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center will contain a library, classrooms, an art gallery, media center, performance space and meeting rooms. The Center will also house the Institute of African-American Research and Upward Bound Program.



The Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center. Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence (1988-1999)

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DEADLINE: January 15, 1999

For more information, please call
Renee Alexander at 919-962-6810

