

# WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN

## Tina McRae — a ray of hope in Congressman Rangel's office

Edited by Audrey J. Bernard  
Lifestyles/Society Editor

**Tina McRae**, one of Harlem's home-grown, is the eldest daughter of Evelyn Townsend and Ernest McRae. Tina attended grade school in Harlem and graduated from Louis D. Brandeis High School. After graduation from Brandeis, she went on to earn a Bachelors Degree in Sociology, with minors in history and education, from the well regarded Black College, Virginia Union University, in Richmond Virginia.

As the mother of two sons, Brandon and Jamal, the grandmother of two granddaughters, seven-year-old Quianie and four month old Brandy, Ms. McRae continues her efforts to educate herself, as well as her community. In 1975, she received a Master's Degree in Administration from Metropolitan College of New York, where she has worked as an Adjunct Professor.

For the past five years Tina's tireless efforts to advocate for her community has allowed her to contribute to the famous Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce Harlem Week celebration that takes place every August by serving as Chair of the Children's Festival. She maintains that working for the Children's Festival is one of the best opportunities to give back to the community as there is nothing greater than seeing the smiling faces at the Children's Festival — an event hosted by GHCC chairman and CEO Lloyd Williams. Last year more than 34,000 children of Harlem and the community-at-large visited the Children's Festival and

they anticipate the numbers to rise next year.

Tina wears many hats. As an event planner you certainly would not get any disagreement from the members of the Martin Luther King Jr. Democratic Club where she, along with City Councilperson Inez Dickens, maintains a personal guest list consisting of several hundred people who eagerly pursue them for tickets. It is amazing how in the limited amount time available after a full day of work that she's able to devote herself to the Club.

Most Harlemites have known Ms. McRae as the senior special assistant to Chairman of Ways & Means Congressman, Charles B. Rangel, where she is about to enter her thirty-second year of service for one of the nation's brightest and most compassionate Members of Congress. In her senior position, she is responsible for the screening of individuals who are interested in meeting or speaking to the Congressman.

In that regard, the perk and pretty administrator has spoken to world leaders, Fortune 500 CEO's and some of the world's greatest celebrities — all in a day's work at Congressman Rangel's Office. For those who are in need of Immigration assistance, Tina received her training from Homeland Security making Congressman Rangel's office an excellent resource for immigration and passport service matters.

Affectionately described as Harlem's "community diplomat" because of her tenacious way of handling people and events, the "buck stops here" when Tina's in charge. If you are not sure who you need to be in touch with to get the job done, simply ask for Ms. Tina McRae in Congressman Rangel's Office, and you will be taken care of.

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### Fashionista Gail Monroe-Perry is at the top of her game in retail

**Gail Monroe-Perry** is a seasoned executive in the retail industry having successfully launched two start-up businesses as director of merchandising and product development of the National Broadcasting Company's (NBC) Experience Store and vice president of merchandising and production of Carlisle Kids both in New York City.

As a senior executive at Fed-

erated Merchandising Group, Macy's product development and Bloomingdales, she has been known to enhance productivity, increase profitability and has trained and developed numerous teams of outstanding employees. She is a true leader in product development, merchandising and sourcing.

Currently she is the senior director of merchandising and design for staffing at The Limited, Inc and partner of Studio New York, a custom furniture manufacturing and design company.

Having traveled extensively around the world, Gail has worked with international companies throughout Eastern and Western Europe, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Israel, Turkey, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and the United States.

In April 2004 she began her role as president of the Board of Directors of The Black Retail Action Group (BRAG). Gail is a member and former Board of Director of the New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, a member of the Partnership Alumni of Boston, and the Hampton University Alumni Association. She is also on the National Retail Advisory Board of the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) and serves on the Board of the Ashley Stewart Community Foundation.

Gail is a graduate of Hampton University and has furthered her technical knowledge of apparel development with study at the Fashion Institute of Technology. She resides in New York City with her husband Robert Perry.

Presently, Gail is readying for BRAG's upcoming 37<sup>th</sup> annual scholarship and awards dinner on Friday, October 26, 2007 at Cipriani Wall Street honoring fashion maven Naomi Campbell, entrepreneur and supermodel; John Demsey, group president, Estee Lauder Company; Joe L. Dudley, president & CEO, Dudley Products; Marti Moore, divisional vice president, cosmetics, Lord & Taylor; Lisa Price, founder and managing partner, Carol's Daughter; Mikki Taylor, beauty director & cover editor, Essence Magazine; and Urban Brands



**Willette Murphy Klausner**

will receive the not-for-profit organization's corporate award. Constance White, ebay's style director, will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies.

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### Producer Willette Murphy Klausner has lots to sing about

**Willette Murphy Klausner** has produced Three Mo' Tenors since 2001. The show has traveled nationally as well as internationally in Edinburgh, Scotland and Armenia. Klausner produced the Three Mo' Tenors CD "A Taste of Three Mo' Tenors," which was recorded at The Oriental Theatre in Chicago.

Three Mo' Tenors have performed at the NAACP Image Awards, NAACP Theatre Awards, Minorities in Business Prism Awards, Mayor's Arts Awards at The Kennedy Center, as well as Jazz Meets Pop Series at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Klausner has produced Kat and the Kings on Broadway (co-producer) and Twist,

(which she produced at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia and the George Street Playhouse). In Los Angeles, she produced "To Take Arms" starring Hattie Winston and Sanaa Lathan and co-produced "Fully Committed" and "Hurlyburly" starring Sean Penn and Danny Aiello.

Klausner was the first African-American woman in fashion merchandising at Bloomingdale's in New York City and the first female corporate VP at MCA Universal Studios. She serves on the Board of Directors of the American Cinema Foundation and has served on the Boards of Directors of the Los Angeles Music Center, the Women in Film Foundation, the Audrey Skirbal-Kenis Theatre and the Constitutional Rights Foundation. She is a member of The Women's Trusteeship for the Betterment of Women and the National Women's Forum.

Willette Murphy Klausner is married to attorney Manuel S. Klausner and they are co-founding members of the American Institute of Wine and Food. They have eaten their way through more than 50 countries, and have been featured in many prestigious articles on food and wine.



**Gail Monore-Perry**