



## President's Report July 2018

Rena Konomis

Harambee Cultural Society is midway through the 5 year strategic plan that was set in motion in 2016. A focused vision and mission has helped guide the board as we take action to achieve the five main themes. Our key objective being to protect the culture of Harambee.

Concerns about how the past few years of HSF has been impacted by higher attendance, offsite attendees and more complex group dynamics that have felt to contribute to a diluted sense of our values and what we believe to be the essence of Harambee. Changes implemented to registration are hoped to ensure core families continue to attend as we integrate new families at a slower rate while having most families on site with a commitment to the entire week. Long term families are asked to be role models for new families/younger parents.

This year's camp shows the commitment to our Youth with a panel of Harambee children now young adults who are the core to much of the Youth programming. They are re-establishing past favorites with the amazing race/fear factor as well as taking on mentoring roles. The establishment of the youth club and lounge area helps promote good conversation exploring a range of topics that our younger campers have a need for. A mentor fund was established to provide financial support to youth who wish to attend camp when their family may not.

Programming is focused on the ongoing education for our families and this year builds on the last few years of repetitive topics with a plan for 2019 to be more in depth in the offerings of therapeutic milieu that are seen as important from discussions/events this year. The hope is that the program contributors are setting up a multi-year package of topics to help families delve into more detail. Program providers and events provide cultural representation.

There is a need to determine how to provide concrete ideas for outreach.

The next year will have a continued focus on youth and programming to ingrain these changes for future camps. Communication to attendees will need to be reviewed with a plan on offering clear, timely and simple information flow. A renewed interest in fundraising will provide an opportunity for planning options yet to be determined.

We will say thank you and best wishes to two original board members (Scott and Susan) as they leave the board. It has been a great privilege to work beside Scott and Susan. Hope is that we can create a space for past members and families so that we maintain Harambee's "institutional" memories for new members to rely on as they lead us into the future.