



President's Report July 2019
Rena Konomis

Harambee Cultural Society is entering into our final year of a 5 year strategic plan that has seen changes to how we organize our summer festival. In 2016 we wanted to focus on elements of Youth, Therapeutic support, Mentorship, Cultural representation and Outreach. I want to thank the Board members, current and past who during these 4 years have worked diligently toward achieving this plan. Survey inputs, discussions and notes from campers all lead us to believe that we are continuing to provide a Harambee Summer Festival that is to each of us - safe, inclusive, loving and fun.

Outreach is something we believe is core to success for our families. We rally for celebrations and difficult times, our children lean on each other throughout the year and parents plan visits to maintain deep connections. Harambee families have said;

- *My child graduated but it would be great if they could also receive acknowledgement from Harambee. I know so much of their confidence has come from camp.*
- *They want to go and give back because now as adults they see the value of camp.*
- *A safe place to share, with people who care*

Attendance at camp this year will have the highest number of new families in over 10 years. Many of our beloved families that have attended for their children's formidable years are now celebrating adulthood. We see that many are not returning to camp as responsibilities of jobs and education are difficult to manage. We eagerly anticipate new families for the next few years and all the ideas that will flow from them joining Harambee!

It has been my privilege to work with Rockne Egnatios as Director of On-line services and a board member. His leadership, compassion and friendship will be truly missed as he steps away from his board position. I also want to wish Ann Travers the best in new endeavors. Ann's guidance and insights have moved us forward in supporting all our families and children as they journey through to their truest selves.