

Chocolate Chat

ATLANTA



Event Guide

January 29, 2012

Dianna

LUXE EVENTS ATLANTA



Photography by: Corey Richburg

Meet Dianna Hicks of Luxe Events Atlanta, Planner of Chocolate Chat Atlanta

"I absolutely enjoy planning and managing events from start to finish."

Dianna Hicks was born in Miami, Florida.

Throughout her life she has been continually placed in leadership positions: top scholastic honors each grade during grade school, and leader within her job and church community.

Her interests are broad and varied. In October 2010 she started a corporate event production company called Sooo Hot Productions, LLC based in Miami, Florida. Sooo Hot Productions produces corporate events such as seminars, expos, corporate trainings, and meetings to market businesses through events.

Additionally, she is an advocate for women entrepreneurs and has produced events for the empowerment of women in business throughout South Florida. Sooo Hot Productions is an acronym

meaning "Standing on our own helping others triumph" which is the vision of her company and her goal is to help others triumph by marketing through her event productions. Sooo Hot Productions has produced events such as the Business to business expo, The Women's small business expo, Business empowerment luncheon and a company showcasing for Sensaria spa products.

After a recent relocation to Atlanta, Ga, Dianna started a company called Luxe Events Atlanta which is a social event planning company based in Atlanta, GA. Luxe Events Atlanta has successfully produced the social mixer Chocolate Chat Atlanta. She is also the organizer for a social group called Women B-2-B connects which serves as a platform where local women entrepreneurs are encouraged to barter services and share leads.

Although focused in the corporate and social event field, Dianna is also passionate about the rights of children. Dianna has become the Director of

events for the Dream-A-Way Foundation non-profit organization for children. As a single parent she is dedicated to the empowerment and growth of less fortunate children everywhere.

When she is not working, she loves spending time with her son, traveling and learning different marketing strategies.

Links

<http://www.facebook.com/luxeeventsatlanta>

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/dianna-hicks/19/ab3/3a5>

www.twitter.com/luxeeventsatl

<http://www.luxeeventsatlanta.com>



Ericka



SWARTHY DAISY



Meet Ericka Tinsley, Blogger, Swarthy Daisy, Co-Planner of Chocolate Chat Atlanta

"I pride myself on bringing events to life that show respect for the community!"

Chocolate Chat came to life as a result of an idea and a drive to have events in the city that people can benefit from. Looking back, I started out as a blogger in 2009. I was so graciously prodded by and introduced to the Atlanta Social Media scene by my friend Sandra Hicks, @hicksgirl93 on Twitter. It was then that she encouraged me to start blogging as she had been for years prior. I told her about all of my ideas for creating a clothing and accessory line for women with Natural Hair.

Soon after our conversation, I was successful with starting my blog in 2009 as well as my Etsy store (www.etsy.com/SwarthyDaisy) selling Naturally Inspired graphic tees and tote bags. My products were received well by the natural hair community. I was still, though, not really familiar with Twitter and all that it allowed users to do.

Once I met Renee Ross (@reneejross) at one of her Social Media Tweet-ups, she gave me a quick lesson on "tweeting" and she became my first follower! Once I got the hang of Twitter, I was able to use it as a tool to market not only my natural hair products, but also tell people about my blog, my day, and things that interested me. Today I have well over a thousand followers!

As a result of my Tweet ups, Blogging, and Facebook activity, I attracted the attention of Ms. Dianna Hicks (@DiannaHicks), Event Planner out of Miami, Florida. She contacted me about partnering up on an event of my choice. I spoke with her about what soon developed into Chocolate Chat Atlanta! Chocolate Chat promises to be Atlanta's most entertaining, informative, and fun way to blend the community and business professionals together!

Social Media Links

www.swarthydaisy.blogspot.com

www.twitter.com/SwarthyDaisy

www.facebook.com/SwarthyDaisy

<http://about.me/SwarthyDaisy>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/swarthy03>



Chocolate Chat Atlanta



Chocolate Chat Speakers January 29, 2012

Finances

We all know how difficult it can be to manage finances when running a business or running your personal life! Our Chocolate Chat Guest Speakers will help you to get your year started right with the right financial tips!



As a personal finance author, speaker and coach,

Patrice Cunningham Washington is passionately living life with a unique mission to eradicate financial illiteracy amongst women, youth and people of colour. Patrice is the author of *Real Money Answers for College Students*, which is the first in a series dedicated to answering fundamental personal finance questions in a simple and no nonsense manner for every stage of life. She is currently the Financial Management Consultant for Operation HOPE's Financial Literacy Empowerment Center in Atlanta, an organization which has been dubbed the nation's leading provider of financial empowerment resources and tools in underserved communities. Patrice is also the former Vice President of Communications and External Affairs for the Economic Empowerment Initiative, a non-profit organization focused on teaching financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills to college students. Each week, Patrice writes personal finance content for HelloBeautiful.com, the fastest growing website for African American women in the country and has also had her work featured on the cover of national publications like *Upscale Magazine*. Additionally, she acts as the Financial Fitness Facilitator for Young, Fit & Fly, a campaign empowering young women on high school and college campuses nationwide to be financially, physically and fashionably fit.



Since building her first business, a real estate, mortgage and investment brokerage, at just 21 years old, Patrice has dedicated her life to the entrepreneurial advancement of young people. She is a volunteer for Youth Entrepreneurs of Atlanta and actively coaches young women who aspire to explore the entrepreneurial path and assists them with creating personal finance goals in order to ensure success in their business pursuits.

Patrice earned a Bachelor of Science degree emphasizing in Entrepreneurial Studies from the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business. Originally from Los Angeles, CA, Patrice resides in Atlanta, GA. She and her husband, Gerald, are the proud parents of an energetic gymnast, Reagan Genea.

Patrice C. Washington is a personal finance author, speaker, coach and blogger at SeekWisdomFindWealth.com where she gives money advice with an urban twist. She offers free one-on-one credit and money management counseling nationwide.

More than likely you genuinely enjoyed the traveling, gift-giving and extra time spent with family and friends this past holiday season. But, if you're like most people, those warm memories haven't halted your New Year anxiety as you prepare to deal with the consequences of your overspending and newly formed credit card debt. While some may have to pay for those stocking stuffers well into the spring season, others will carry last year's splurges well into this year's holiday season. Figuring out how to recover from holiday debt can be a daunting process, but here are six tips for handling holiday spending, as well as a few extra steps on how to prevent overspending this year:

Get clear about your goals.

Let's face it. You may have ended up in debt this holiday season because you had no real goals guiding your financial decisions to begin with. Sure, you may have started out saying last January that you wanted to be "debt free," but how is it that you ended the year with more debt than you had in the first place? The reason most people fail at goals is because they aren't specific enough to create intentional behavior. So instead of making your goal this year to "get out of debt," create focus by being specific. For example, a goal like "I will pay off my Bank of America credit card of \$989 by June 1, 2012" is much more effective. In addition, make sure to follow up the goal with monthly steps to keep you on track.

Create a debt elimination plan.

Look at your budget and determine how much extra money you can use towards paying off your debt. If you have multiple bills as your goal to pay off this year, use the snowball method by adding all the extra cash you find to one debt, while paying the minimum on the rest. When your first debt is paid off, add that entire payment to the minimum payment of the next debt in line and continue until each debt is actually eliminated. Keep in mind that the "extra money" might very well be money that you shave off of the other elements of your budget. Be prepared to make the necessary monthly sacrifices in order to repay for those few days of "memories."

Return what you don't need or want.

One of the quickest ways to reduce debt is to eliminate all non-essential debt as quickly as possible. Rather than holding on to duplicate gifts or things you don't want or need, return them for the cash. If you can't return them, then exchange the gifts for items you regularly use and may need now or in the upcoming months. Use the cash you would have spent purchasing those items to add with your minimum credit card payments for the next few months.

Start your spring cleaning in the winter.

Spend a weekend sorting through boxes, bags and forgotten shelves. Pull out anything you haven't used in a while, or don't want anymore. Take digital photos of the gently used items and put them up for sale on Craigslist or eBay. Remove the clutter and create cash to assist you with paying down your holiday debt.

Double Credit Card Payments

If you can't pay off your credit card balances in full, then you need to double up on credit card payments until the debt is resolved. When you really take finance charges and 27% interest rates into consideration, would paying \$50 for that \$20 scarf you bought the boss you can't stand, really be worth it? It may take some hard core budgeting to pull off doubling the payments, but again that's where a little sacrifice will come in.

File Taxes Sooner Than Later

If you are anticipating a substantial tax refund this year, then once you receive all of the paperwork you need from your employer, financial institutions, etc. file sooner than later and apply that towards your holiday debt. Never use more than 50 percent of your refund on debt repayment. You must always have money to go towards savings. If you use all of the money on debt and then experience an emergency, but have no savings, then guess what? You'll be back in debt before you know it!

Financial stresses can put a cloud over the festivities, and make it difficult for you and your family to enjoy the season. Don't allow that stress to spill over into your New Year. Get back on track by taking control of your finances and committing to planning ahead this year.



Also Speaking...



Andrea Amir

Andrea Amir, has over 13 years of experience helping people reach their financial goals as a realtor, mortgage banker and educator. After experiencing her very own financial hardship — filing bankruptcy two times in the same year because she took misguided advice from a “professional” — she realized that with a solid grasp of financial literacy skills, a little planning, and discipline, such drastic measures weren’t needed at all. As a Certified Personal Finance Educator and Certified Housing Counselor, Andrea now spends her time maintaining financial success and educating others as well as helping them avoid financial issues.

<http://smartmoneychicks.com/>



Andrea Pendelton

I’m a single gal in my mid-twenties and living in Atlanta. I started using coupons as the occasional way to make some room in my budget, and now I love the excitement of saving hundreds of dollars each month! I started this blog to share my couponing and other money saving adventures with friends who wonder why I get so pumped about a good bargain. As much as I like to save, I also love to give my time and money to my church and other great nonprofit organizations.

<http://singleandsaving.com/>



Jemond White

Jemond White is a personal banker with the Cedarcrest Wells Fargo Banking system. He has extensive experience in credit and debt solutions. Jemond has extensive knowledge and strategies to help customers find financial solutions to help with large expenses, such as saving for college, buying a home, and planning for retirement.

Kia Thomas



Kia Thomas is a Relationship Manager for the Wells Fargo At Work Program. She supports the Cobb, Paulding, Cherokee, and Forsyth County markets where she builds relationships with government entities, hospitals, companies, school systems, colleges, and universities to provide exclusive financial benefits to their employees and/or students. She also presents financial literacy seminars that help motivate and educate individuals on topics such as: Understanding Credit, Identity Theft, Prioritizing Savings, Tips for Retirement and more. August the 16th marked Kia's 12th year in the banking industry (via 3 mergers) and her experience stems from 7 years of Retail Banking and Management, 3 years of Wealth Management, and 2 years of Relationship Management in the "At Work" group.



Corey Moore, Owner, Business & Tax Advisor, Fortune Financial Group, LLC

Corey Moore is the founder and owner of Fortune Financial Group. He provides excellent budgeting strategies and tax services. “Fortune Financial Group (FFG) is a financial institution whose objective is to empower its clients through financial knowledge. FFG is a Georgia-based company, which is comprised of professionals that are dedicated to providing the necessary tools that will promote financial growth.”



Chocolate
Chat

ATL, Ga

We have Atlanta's
most unique goods
and services!

Here is a little bit about our
Chocolate Chat vendors.....

VENDORS

Soo Soo Tasty



Hello my name is Sophia SoSo Starnes the Cake Artist. I was born and raised in Atlanta, GA. I have been married for 20 years with two young adult children, aunt and sister to many. Crossing many boundaries, obstacle has shown me nothing can stop me from obtain my dreams.

Currently I am attending Ashford University to complete my Dual Degrees BA of Art in Business Administration and Masters' in Entrepreneurship. I begin baking at the young age of 12 with my Grandmother. So I decided to open my on-line bakery after leaving the Public School System as a Special Needs Teacher.

Teaching once a week to Home School children Basic Cake Decorating & the Art of Cooking Classes allows me to mentor other young chefs and aspiring bakers. I call myself the Cake Artist because I love baking, fashion and Art; when you put them all together it's called Cake Art. We create and design cakes for all occasions and deliver in Metro Atlanta area, Tennessee and Alabama state line. A small portion of each cake sale will be donated to my group The Pink Stilettos to purchase items to assist at a local Charity or Group Home in the Atlanta Metro Area. For more information please visit us at: www.wix.com/pinkstilettogroup/home see what we are doing to give back to the community.

For some tasty and intimate treats
please visit us at www.soosootasty.com

Eye-Candy Cosmetics



I started this journey in my little kitchen in my first apartment. I wanted to be able to create a product that woman would love to show off and wear. So I sat down and researched "How to Make Makeup" and in just a few short months I was able to learn just about all I could about ingredients, substances, formulas, colors & blends, preservatives and the list goes on and on! Creating cosmetics was always fun and rewarding however, extremely overwhelming and time consuming! So with that said, I teamed up with a great manufacturer and they helped me to create a stunning product that I truly believed in... Eye-Candy Cosmetics.

Eye-Candy Cosmetics was created to make women feel daring and different, step out of the box, and not being afraid to wear COLOR. So many woman young and old choose to stay "safe" with their cosmetics, but why? You should be able to express that beautiful personality through outgoing colors and texture and Eye-Candy Cosmetics will help you achieve just that! However, that doesn't mean you won't be able to get in touch with your natural side either, Eye-Candy offers beautiful rich earth tones and natural colors to give every woman a flawless finish as if their wearing no makeup at all. Yes, Eye-Candy Cosmetics truly has a little something for everyone. From loud and bright to soft and natural, let Eye-Candy Cosmetics do all the work for you and express that inner diva!

Shealyn Robbins

Owner and Creative Director
Eye-Candy Cosmetics, LLC
www.Eye-CandyCosmetics.com



JustJewels4U



JustJewels4U carries affordable unique and classy fashion jewelry for all women. I believe an outfit is not complete without a statement piece. Embrace a pop of color with an eye-catching jewelry piece that compliments the neck or just make a bold statement with a unique piece that will show off your vibrant personality.

A perfect jewelry piece, will make a simple outfit into an extraordinary stunning outfit!

Wendy D.

www.JustJewels4U.com



SOULPURPOSE
body beauty style spirit

Soul Purpose Lifestyle Company was founded in 2007 as a socially responsible and sustainable direct selling company with a mission of creating empowering business opportunities primarily for women of color. Our vision is to support individual purpose and vision through the marketing of exquisite, all natural, high quality products that illuminate body, beauty, style and spirit.

www.soulpurpose.com



Catering, Blog, Event Planning & Lifestyle

cutechickscook.blogspot.com

CuteChicksCook is a catering business specializing in good, simple, home cooked food for families & small to mid-sized social events. We are focused on providing quality meals and promoting a lifestyle to encourage the enjoyment of cooking & entertaining. It was started in 2012 by Zainabe Nuriddin & based out of Alpharetta, GA. Zainabe has an overwhelming passion for food & loves to share it along with her love of cooking to others.

<http://cutechickscook.blogspot.com>

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Email: diamondstouch@gmail.com

<http://www.wix.com/diamondstouch/diamondztouch>

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About Lady of Beauty Event Management, LLC.

Lady of Beauty Event Management, LLC is the brainchild of Yuma Mallard. LOBEM, LLC was birthed out of a passion for planning and providing the ultimate event.

LOB Event Management is a 4 year old company based in Atlanta, Georgia and is a company built on turning dreams into realities and to accomplish what many think is the impossible! When you make the decision to hire LOB Event Management, LLC. you will receive a personalized experience. Our staff is skilled and certified in organizing, planning, and implementing important engagements of various sizes; from intimate ceremonies to large scale events of all types, nothing is too small or too large for LOB Event Management, LLC.

Your planned and well organized event will always be treated as if it is the only event on our upcoming calendar. We will commit to keeping the lines of communication open and offering our best professional advice and recommendations but the final decision will always come from the client. We believe in the old saying "The CLIENT is ALWAYS right". As we strive to meet your needs; our goal is not only for your event to be memorable but for the process of planning your event to be a joyous occasion.

We make events beautiful by planning beautiful events. Together, with your vision and our passion for planning, ability to deliver on deadline and our "Make it Happen" attitude motivating us, your Lady of Beauty event is surely to be an unforgettable experience.

If you are planning an event in Atlanta or any neighboring cities, Lady of Beauty Event Management LLC welcomes your business and we promise we will earn your trust.

Why deal with numerous vendors? Let us do that for you...

<http://www.ladyofbeautyevents.com>



I am Stacey Taylor aka The SistahChick. I am representing Our Natural Kids. We promote natural hair health style and maintenance for kids through our social networking website www.OurNaturalKids.Ning.com

Co./Individual Website

www.OurNaturalKids.Ning.com
www.TheSistahCafe.blogspot.com



Brown Suga Chic LLC was created by Free Spirited, Screen Printing addict, & rising Graphic Artist Lisa Collins in 2009. A native New Yorker, Lisa was inspired by the movie Brown Sugar. Lisa states "I have always had this love affair with the hip hop culture, the music, the rhythms, the art and so much more. Designing T-shirts and creating jewelry for my closest friends and family has always been my passion. Over the years, I felt like I was not living my true life in Corporate America. I had to look back to find that one true thing that made me feel alive. I finally listened and I have truly been blessed.

Inspired by the soul of New York and the hospitality of Atlanta Brown Suga Chic is a blend of the finest elements of limited edition apparel and amazing one of a kind Handcrafted Jewelry Designs.

"Like the perfect Verse Over a Tight Beat,"- Brown Suga Chic is my ode to Hip Hop

Pure Romance



Pure Romance is one of the nation's leading and fastest-growing woman-to-woman direct sellers of relationship and intimacy aids. Pure Romance is your best choice for relationship enhancement and it's premier line of products is marketed through a distinctive network of in-home parties organized by more than 75,000 specially trained or certified independent sales Consultants throughout the United States, Australia, Canada, Puerto Rico, South Africa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Pure Romance parties are great ideas for birthdays, bachelorette parties, and girls' nights. Your party is guaranteed to always be fun with Pure Romance, and those special occasions become laugh-out-loud unforgettable! Call your girlfriends and let them know it's time for a long overdue girls' night in.

Pure Romance by Mocha

<http://www.judybooker.pureromance.com/>



Big Daddy's Slab Shack

Hi, my name is Mark Davenport and my business is Big Daddy's Slab Shack. We specialize in smoked ribs, pork butts, whole chickens, turkey, wings and brisket. We slow smoke our meats with peach wood and their also steam infused with juices. All of our meats are topped off with our award winning Slab Sauce. We are in the process of setting up for small catering events. If interested, please contact me at

www.bigdaddysslabshack@att.net.

Damitra (Dee Dee) Simmons-Stuart



Damitra (Dee Dee) Simmons-Stuart is a 35 year old who is originally from El Paso Texas and has always been passionate about business and at an early age has always aspired to be successful and has been interested in a variety of things. Damitra is the creator of Atlanta Ambition Magazine & TV and the host of Hanging with Dee Dee on You Tube.

Atlanta Ambition Magazine & TV is an online monthly lifestyle magazine that focuses on women here in Atlanta that are doing great things or aspiring to be better in life! The magazine includes articles written by professional women right here in Atlanta! She is also an entrepreneur who owns a graphic design company called Epic Graphixx www.epicgraphixx.com and a small chain of Cleaning businesses called Dee Dee's Cleaning, all while attending college full time majoring in Visual Communications.

She was just recently offered her own online cable channel from a new cable network that is premiering soon! The name of her channel is called DRN and will feature a variety of positive programming including shows created by Damitra.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/AtlantaAmbitiontv>

Atlanta Diaper Relief



Atlanta Diaper Relief is a non-profit organization dedicated to distributing diapers to poor families in need. We are a diaper bank and through our diaper drives we collect diapers and distribute them to Cobb, Douglas and Fulton County families in need with help from our partner agencies like daycare centers and food pantries.

<http://www.AtlantaDiaperRelief.org>

Metro Atlanta Business Network



Dedicated to connecting LinkedIn members and companies for face-to-face networking which will allow them to establish powerful, strategic alliances that lead to increased profits.

<http://www.metroabn.com/>

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Shea Moisture



Kerric Tyler



Charmaine Thomas



Kevin Taylor

PERFORMANCE BY...



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Chocolate Chat Atlanta

LINKS

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