



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Gustavo Rivera

Senator Rivera Hosted Black History Month Celebration, Honored Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson

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February 29, 2012



Bronx, NY – State Senator Gustavo Rivera (D, WF – Bronx) hosted a Black History Month celebration in conjunction with St. Joseph Church on Saturday, February 25, 2012. Working together with community partners such as St. Joseph Catholic Church and the South Bronx Job Corps Culinary Program, Senator Rivera hosted a celebration that included the honoring of State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, words from a guest speaker, comedian Baratunde Thurston, author of *How to be Black*, and performances by Nene Ali (spoken word), Aquila Knight, who sang the Black National Anthem and Warriors for Christ Praise & Worship Dance Ministry from Creston Avenue Baptist Church in the 33rd Senate District.

“This month we remember that hard work of those who came before us and helped us bring a stronger sense of justice to our society,” said Senator Rivera. “They taught us that our future should not be predicated by race and external factors, but rather by what we do regardless of race, class, gender, sexual orientation or creed. On Saturday, we honored the memories of African-Americans who have shaped our past and those individuals who are shaping our nation’s and our state’s present and future. Their accomplishments are an integral part of American history and should be celebrated and shared, not just this month, but every day of the year.”

Over a hundred Bronxites attended Saturday’s Black History Month Celebration, including State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Assembly Member Carl Heastie, Assembly Member Vanessa Gibson, City Comptroller John Liu, City Council Member Leticia James, Community Board 6 Chairwoman Wendy Rodriguez and District Leader Cynthia Cox. The South Bronx Job Corps Culinary provided a traditional AND healthy African-American meal for all those who attended.