



SPRING 1993

# NEWS

A BETTER CHANCE IN DARIEN, Inc. P.O. BOX 3204, Darien, Connecticut, 06820

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Darien, CT 06820

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES !!



SoLan  
Liang

Aysha is headed for the University of Pennsylvania next year after completing four very successful years in our ABC Program. She was accepted at Yale University, the University of Virginia, and Spellman College among others. She is looking forward to earning a liberal arts degree and specializing in Pre-law. Aysha's dream is to become a lawyer, judge or teacher so that she can return to her Spanish Harlem community in New York City and play a role in helping the under privileged there.

Family plays an important part in Aysha's life. She is close to her mother, Angela, her 13 year old brother, Damien and her grandparents. She has maintained a close relationship to her ABC sister Tammy Loatman who is currently studying at the University of Virginia. Some of her favorite subjects at Darien High School have been Physics, Math, English and Law and Government. She has worked in the Administrative offices there, and left a positive mark at DHS, winning several awards including the Karl Heinritz Memorial Award for students who show promise in the visual arts, the Connecticut Council of Supervisors of Mathematics Award, the Darien Police Association Scholarship, and the Darien Faculty Award.

All of us at ABC wish Aysha the best of luck.



Aysha  
Ramseur

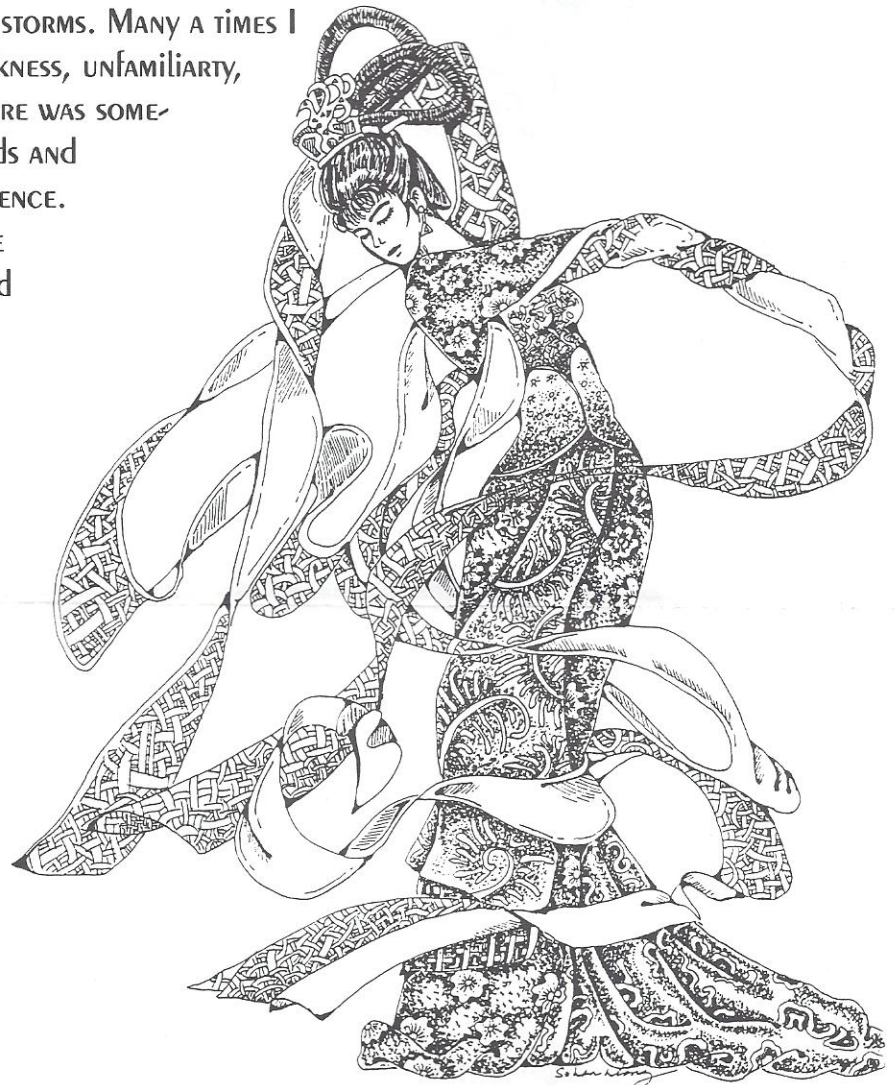
SINCE I WAS A little girl in China, I HAVE ALWAYS REMEMBERED A CONFUCIUS QUOTE MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME. THEY SAID THAT A CHILD IS LIKE A WHITE SHEET OF SILK. ONE MUST TAKE THE TIME TO PAINT AND BLEND IN THE COLORS SO THE PICTURE WOULD LOOK NICE. IF ONE SLOPPILY SWEEPS THE BRUSH ACROSS THE PAGE, THE PICTURE WOULD LOOK UGLY AND DIRTY. AND AFTERWARDS, IT WOULD BE VERY HARD TO CLEAN IT.

AND PERHAPS IT WAS THIS QUOTE THAT HAD GIVEN ME THE INITIAL COURAGE TO ENTER THE UNKNOWN WATERS OF MY ABC EXPERIENCE, AND THEN THE STRENGTH TO SWIM THROUGH ITS HARSHTEST STORMS. MANY A TIMES I HAVE BEEN LOST, ALONE IN MY SEA OF DARKNESS, UNFAMILIARTY, AND HOPELESSNESS. YET MANY A TIMES THERE WAS SOMETHING, SOME ONE THAT HAD HELD MY HANDS AND KEPT ME FROM DROWNING IN MY THICK SILENCE.

PERHAPS FORTUNATELY, AS MUCH AS I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT PAIN, I HAVE ALSO LEARNED ABOUT TRUE FRIENDSHIP, CARING, AND LOVE. SOMEONE HAD SHED LIGHT INTO MY DARKNESS AND HAD GUIDED ME SAFELY ONTO MY SHORE. SOMEONE HAD WRAPPED WARMTH AROUND ME SO I WOULD NOT GET SICK FROM THE COLD WATERS. I WANT TO THANK THAT SOMEONE NOW BECAUSE YOU ARE MORE THAN A PAIR OF WARM HANDS TO ME — YOU ARE A FRIEND, A TEACHER, A MOTHER. PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I AM NOW COMFORTABLE FEELING MY FEARS AS WELL AS MY HAPPINESS —

BECAUSE YOU HAVE SHAPED ME IN MY SILENT LIGHT. AND PERHAPS ONE DAY I CAN DO THE SAME FOR SOMEONE LIKE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME. AND PERHAPS THAT IS THE BEAUTY OF LIVING. TODAY, I AM A NEW BUTTERFLY. IT IS TIME FOR ME TO SHED MY COCCOON OF WARMTH AND LEAVE ITS PLACE FOR SOME OTHER BUDDING SWIMMER. BECAUSE TODAY I DON'T NEED TO SWIM ANYMORE — I CAN FLY IN THE SUMMER SUN.

SoLan



Self Portrait - SoLan Liang

**GRADUATION IS**

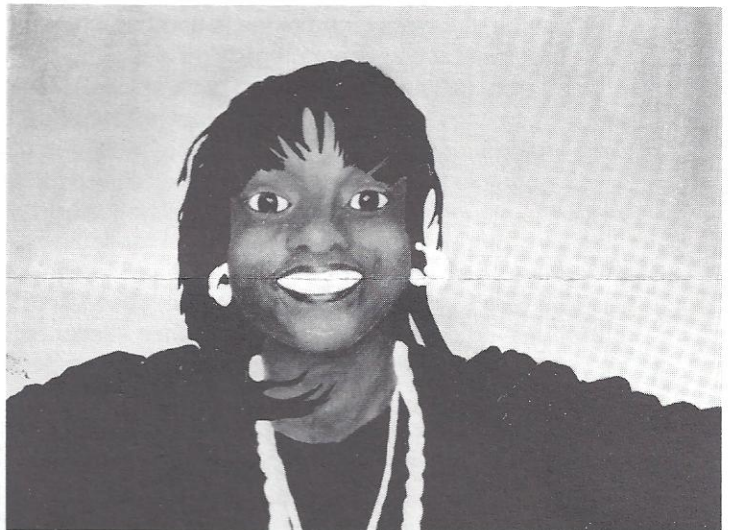


For the most part my four years at Darien High School have been a rewarding experience. I will always remember those who have supported me, especially my class, the Class of '93, and all the members of the faculty who have helped me achieve my goals.

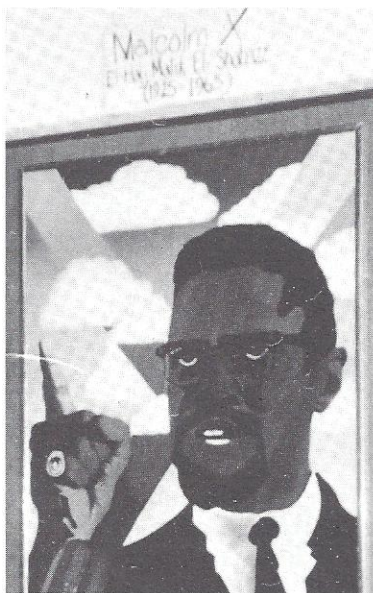


"Martin Luther King" - Aysha Ramseur

Outside of academics, I will miss the administration staff members who I have worked with for two years. Yes, there were many days of laughing, but the work always got done. Most of all I will miss the "sister" relationship that I have shared with over ten ABC girls. Last, but not least, I will always remember my second families, the Bristles and the Schlactenhaufens.



Self Portrait - Aysha Ramseur



"Malcolm X"  
3rd place winner in the Darien Art Show,  
Honorable Mention in the Congressional Art Exhibit - Aysha Ramseur

I sincerely would like to thank everyone who has made my stay in Darien more comforting when I was down and out. Now it is time to say good bye for I have to continue my journey. My next stop is the University of Pennsylvania, and I very much look forward to sharing all that I have learned in Darien.

Yours truly,

Aysha

**JUNE 21ST AT 6 PM**



**New Officers for 1993-1994**

<b>President</b>	<b>Cherie Greene</b>
<b>Vice-President - Internal</b>	<b>Debbie Parnon</b>
<b>Vice-President - External</b>	<b>Emily Bragg</b>
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	<b>Chris Filmer</b>
<b>Corporate Secretary</b>	<b>Suzanne Albani</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Tamison Sickinger</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Sally Schlactenhafen</b>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>Jane Moloney</b>
<b>Comptroller</b>	<b>June Cobb</b>

**New Members**

**Mary Ellen Cavanna**  
**Sue Erzen**  
**Ran Hammer**  
**Tamison Sickinger**  
**Linda Thomas**  
**Barbara Bristle**  
**Linda Burton**  
**Shirley Patterson**  
**John Phillips**

**WE NEED YOU....**

This year's fund-raising campaign is under way. Darien's ABC program receives more than 90% of its financial support from individuals. We must raise at least \$40,000.00 annually to cover normal operating expenses and occasional extraordinary housing expenses. We are always in need of extra money to provide enrichment opportunities for the ABC students. Darien's ABC students have historically made an indelible contribution to our community. Please be generous with your contributions, so other outstanding young women like this year's graduates, Aysha and SoLan, have the opportunity to continue taking pride in their intellect and preparing themselves for leadership in American Society.

Contributions can be sent to:  
P.O. Box 3204  
Darien CT 06820



"Wavefest '93"



DHS Talent Show, April '93

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

To CARPET RESOURCES of Darien for discount carpeting.  
To CHRIS FILMER and TOM PARNON for trimming the hedges.  
To LISA RICHARDS of SIR SPEEDY for waiving the set-up charges for this year's fund-raising letter.  
To the DARIEN POLICE ASSOCIATION for awarding BOTH their 1993 Scholarships to our ABC girls.

**HOST FAMILIES**

**Barbara and David Bristle - Aysha**  
**Penny and Sandy Liu - SoLan**  
**Nancy and Bill Leroy - Fatima**  
**Cherie and Ed Greene - Wendy**  
**Susan and Dick Helstein - Renata**  
**Linda and Mike Burton - Phuong**

**BACK-UP HOST FAMILIES**

**Sally and John Schlactenhafen - Aysha**  
**Lynn and William Hamlen - Solan**  
**Jill and George Kassis - Fatima**  
**Debbie and Tom Parnon - Wendy**  
**Betsy and Bob McGroarty - Renata**  
**Ginny and Bill Martens - Phuong**