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"Welcome to the World of the Yah Yah's"

Here within this book tells the story of seven unlikely women who began as friends and developed into a support group of the most unique variety. They first met two at a time at disconnected intervals. Gradually those pairs were introduced and the group became one big, happy family. Although some of the members have known each other for thirty years, the group as a whole decided to formalize their name, their format and their activities about fifteen years ago. Thus, we became the Yah Yah’s and here in this book we want to honor the friendships that have been such a boon to all of us.

As near as we can figure, Rose and Patricia were the first to meet through a mutual friend about 1980. Sally and Joyce met through their husbands who already knew one another. Then Rose met Sally through another friend and they have been best buds ever since. Next Sally introduced Rose and Joyce. Rose introduced Sally and Patricia at one of Sally’s house parties. Sally met Azia at one of her birthday gatherings.

Now, Barbara is unique in that she is an honorary Yah Yah. She met Rose at Yolanda’s home, then Rose introduced her to Patricia. She later met Charlotte and Aziza at a gathering at Patricia’s house. Rose then introduced Barbara to Sally. In 1996, Joyce and her husband moved to Las Vegas. In 2001, Sally met Charlotte at a luncheon at Patricia’s new home. We’re not sure if everyone else knew Charlotte before this, but it was a first time for Sally, Barbara, and Joyce.

Most importantly, this is the gathering where we were all together and decided to become a social group and decided upon the name. For about the first ten years we joined together for luncheons or dinners, then decided to limit it to two celebrations a year. We split it evenly three and three based upon birth dates. At that point, we also changed from giving gifts to giving cards. We bonded so well we gradually became “fixtures” in each other’s lives. We were supportive of each other's desire for professional growth and personal development as time progressed.

In the midst of our growing closer to one another and working out how we wanted to manage our gatherings, Azia passed away in 2004. In the months after that we realized we were a group of six women who wanted to spend time together. We decided that life is about giving our time and energy to do the things we find meaningful.

We decided to live with no regret and to choose to love and show compassion to others. We learned that friendship is not about a personality type. It’s about making a choice to be friends as you can see from how the diversity in our group. We believe that we must redefine productive or meaningful work at this stage in life and we need to develop habits that empower us.

We put together this book to memorialize our journey. We have included pictures of past times and pictures of each woman. Each woman will offer her favorite life quote and a little bit about their philosophy of life and what inspires them to live as they live.

We invite you to take this journey with us. You will meet seven amazing women who believe in living life to the fullest and sharing that zest for life with those around them. So, get ready for the ride of your life.