

Au Naturel

Special Events:

- Please join us for our **Open House/Open Mike Night** at Schatzi's on Thursday, Jan. 19th from 7-10pm. This is an opportunity to meet the new staff, have your most pressing hair care questions answered and engage in some poetic vibrations. The flow of the evening will be as follows:

7-7:30 – Mix/Mingle
7:30-8:30 – Q&A
8:30-10 – Poetry

Light refreshments will be served. The theme song for the evening will be none other than Kesha's own "[Blow!](#)" Are you ready?

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Offering
Walk-in
Saturdays!**

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Schatzi's Design Gallery & Day Spa, LLC - (919) 844-1933 or (919) 844-2867

The Beautiful Gate has opened...

..let the ministrations begin!!

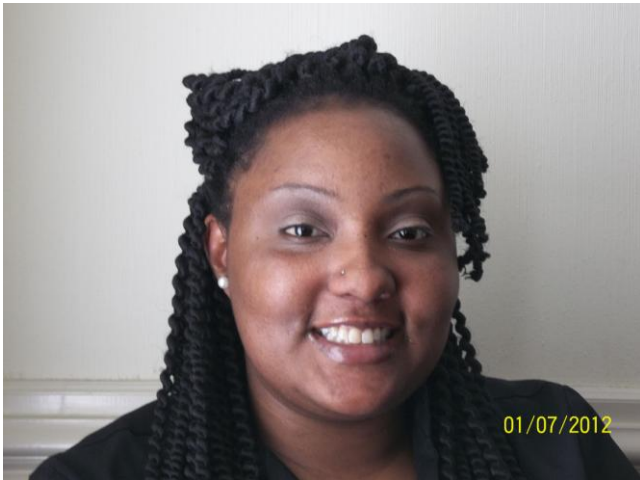
A few months back when I launched our new website, my husband accused me of discriminating in my hiring practices. He said, "You only hire pretty women, don't you?" I thought, "Is that right?!" Since then, I've reflected on those words and I must honestly state that it's all about the spirit. I don't discriminate in hiring. But the ladies who work here must embody our mission in order to be successful. They must believe in natural beauty: their own and that of their clients. If they don't believe they are beautiful before getting here, they better know it once they're on board!! It's also about this place: *Schatzi's*, which I now affectionately call "The Beautiful Gate." It is a gateway to natural beauty. Come here and learn to "Embrace the Beauty of You." Transformation takes place here through a renewing of the mind. What could be more beautiful!!

So with that, I introduce the beautiful and talented ladies of *Schatzi's*: Jamie Mitchell, Robin Smothers, Muriana Fleming and Kamice Somerville. This newsletter provides a profile of each stylist along with their response to some prompt questions that I posed for comment. These questions give you an idea of the stylist's talent and history, their views about the natural hair care field and their style preferences. We are blessed that these ladies have found their way to *Schatzi's*. I am encouraged by their grace, their humility, their raw talent, their passion for natural hair and their creative genius!!! We couldn't ask for a more dynamic team!!! This issue is dedicated solely to show-casing their talent. We will be able to showcase more of their talent within the salon over the coming months. I apologize in advance for the quality of some of the photos. They aren't all as clear as I would like, but I think you can understand what we're working with!



As indicated, we are transforming to become your *one-stop shop* for all-natural hair care needs. As a result, **each** of the stylists is adept at your basic natural styles like twisting, coiling, braiding, locking and lock styling. They all are equally adept at extension and weave styles. For straightening services, Robin and Kamice will be the lead service providers from the outset. Some of their straightening work is provided in the following pages. We're all very excited to be working together and forging a new pathway for the future. To kick off the year with some zest, we'll be taking walk-in clients on Saturdays. Please know however that if you have an appointment scheduled for that day, our "no-wait" policy prevails!

You will have an opportunity to meet these beautiful ladies at our **Open House/Open Mike Night scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2012.** The event is free and open to the public. It will be held at our salon (258 W. Millbrook Rd.) **from 7-10pm.** The schedule and theme song for the evening are noted in the Special Events section (to the left, to the left). © As indicated in the December issue, we will resume our Poetically Correct poetry series for 2012. This month's activity is simply being merged with the Open House activity. Ordinarily, the poetry readings are rather calm and introspective but on January 19th, I anticipate that it will be LIVE!! I'm psyched already! So, please bring some of your own original poetry and prose to share with the group. Please know however that you are not obligated to recite. You may choose only to listen. Whatever your preference is fine. Muriana will be the host of this component of the evening. Hope to see you there!



Jamie Mitchell

"I've always had a passion to braid and twist, with or without extensions....I love this field."

Jamie Mitchell – Licensed Natural Stylist

Jamie Mitchell has been with *Schatzi's* for about three years. She came into our salon very shy and unsure of her work. She had the talent but not the confidence. Well, Jamie has become a powerhouse in her own right! The following quotes are Jamie's response to my prompt questions to give you a flavor of her style:

"I have been professionally styling natural hair for over three years. I've always had a passion to braid and twist with or without extensions. I have been braiding hair for many years not knowing that because I wasn't using chemicals that I was doing natural hair all along. I love this field! I love it because I am able to express myself creatively and because artistically, it is me."

I can do locks, lock styling, cornrows, flat twists, two strand twist, braided extensions, kinky/Nubian twists, sew-in weaves and rod sets. My favorite styles are two strand twists, twist-outs, and up-dos.

Healthy hair care to me means to be able to embrace a style in each of its stages. When it's short, it looks good. And as it's growing out, it looks good. If you can't embrace a style in all of its stages of growth, then your hair is probably not healthy.

What I enjoy about customer service is making the client feel relaxed and at ease, knowing that they will be well taken care of.

If there's one thing I would change about the hair care field, it would be to have people spend less money on products and more money on professional hair care. We often see people once their hair is damaged from improper hair care. I think it's better to pay up-front to maintain healthy hair."

Jamie's style photos include: a flat twisted extension up-do, a Mohawk twist-out, a rod set two-strand twist and a Nubian twist style.



Robin Smothers –Cosmetologist & Loctitian

Robin just completed cosmetology school before having a beautiful baby girl (now six months old). She's a very energetic young woman who has a true confidence in herself and her capabilities that shines through in the final product. This wonderful addition to our staff states:

"Natural hair care to me is natural hair styling and/or braiding. The legal definition is a service that results in tension on hair strands or roots by twisting, wrapping, extending, braiding, or locking hair by hand or mechanical device (with or without extensions). But to me, natural hair is chemical free hair. I love this field because it's creative. I love that everything comes to mind and is a possibility.

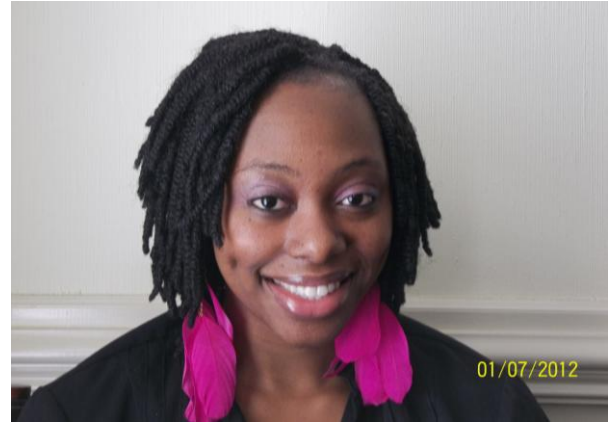
I am skilled at the kinky twist, Nubian and Senegalese twists, coloring, braids, cornrows, lock re-twisting, starter locks, lock styles, lock extensions, sew-in weaves and straightening. My favorite styles would be braids of any kind and locks.

I believe healthy hair is well-conditioned hair. A sign of healthy hair is when the layers of the cuticle layer lie flat. When the scales of the cuticles lie flat, they overlap tightly, so the inner layers are well protected from heat, sun, chlorine and all others hazards that can come from living in this environment. When hair is damaged, the scales may separate and hair can become dry. Because the scales on damaged hair don't protect the inner two layers as well, hair can break down and look dry or unhealthy.

Customer satisfaction begins with the first contact a customer has with your company. Having good customer service means that you make sure to represent a product or service you believe in. It means having a warm and sincere greeting to your clients, providing what the customer needs and exceeding their expectations.

If there were anything that I could change about the hair care field, I would change how stylists treat each other in the sense of it becomes disrespectful. Basically, it seems that everyone is out for themselves. I would also put an age limit on putting relaxers and straightening little girl's hair. The services seem to be damaging their hair."

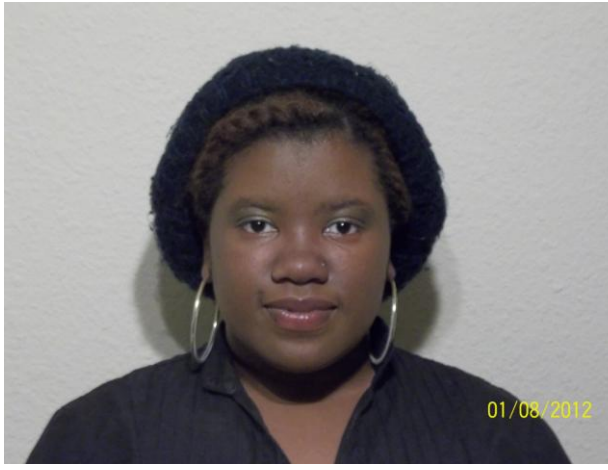
Robin's style photos include: starter locks, a creative cornrow style, natural hair colored and straightened and a child's cornrowed extension updo.



Robin Smothers

"[Customer service] means having a warm and sincere greeting...providing what the customer needs and exceeding their expectations.





Muriana Fleming

“There are...a lot of misconceptions when it comes to black hair even by our own race. I...want people to be more open-minded and knowledgeable to why we should embrace our hair.”

Muriana Fleming – Natural Hair Stylist

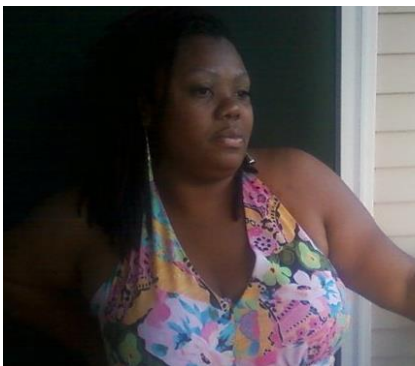
Muriana came into the salon some weeks back with a face that was totally hidden by a full 2 ft long sew-in weave. I thought, “Is this young lady here for the right job?” ☺ I’ve come to learn that she experiments with her own hair “on the regular!” I kind of prefer more subtle styles for her though as she has a beautiful face! But then, it’s all good. She comments:

“I have been doing natural hair care ever since I could remember. I started by just taking a hold of my own hair and the health of it when I was just 11 years old. I started so young because I didn’t want my mom to hurt my head while she braided anymore. LOL! From then on, I started to experiment on my hair and also others. Hair care and styling will always be something I love because of the creativity and uniqueness and also to know that every person’s hair on this earth is different in some way.



Styles that I can do are: comb coils, lock twisting, lock coloring, box braids, kinky twist, Nubian/spring twists, Senegalese twists, two-strand twists, cornrows and straightening. There are an array of styles that I can do and am experienced with so I don't really have a favorite. I always like to try new things based off of my ideas.

When I think of 'healthy hair,' I think of hygiene. We shower everyday, moisturize our body and make sure that we nourish it in such a way that it maintains a healthy state for living. We should also do the same with our hair. Proper care means health and good condition.



The thing I enjoy the most about customer service is satisfaction. I love seeing a smile on a customer’s face when I’ve completed a style. That’s the way I know they trust me and are satisfied.”



Muriana’s style photos include: a creative cornrow style, styled locks (partially shaded photo of her Mom) and two views of long box-braid extensions.

Kamice Somerville – Natural Hair Stylist

Kamice is what you call an “old soul.” When I met her, I felt immediately at ease. Her hair care experience and her “old school” methods belie her years considerably. But as they say, the “apple doesn’t fall very far from the tree.” She’s got skills!!

“My mother taught me how to braid at age 9. I observed her as a little girl braiding head after head in our kitchen. I would get my dolls and mimic her actions. Soon I could do individual braids and cornrows. My mom saw my interest and taught me how to make clean parts and how to add in extension hair. By age 10, I was braiding professionally. I would do my mother’s hair and help her with her clients. By age 40, my mother gave up braiding and I took over completely. My mother was natural for over 95% of my life. She was proud to be naturally beautiful and so am I. I guess being natural and my love for natural hair has been a lifelong lesson.”

As far as styling, I can do a lot of styles: Full/partial sew-in weaves, hair straightening (press & curl or blow outs), up-dos, rod sets, two-strands twists/coils, flat twists, knot twists all with our without extensions, lock services (starter locks, lock re-twists, styling), extension services (micros, micros + sew in, box braids, pixies, kinky twists, afro twists), yarn braids/genie locks, tree braids and latch hook weave. I enjoy doing all services on all age groups. I am continuously seeking new skills and techniques to learn.

Healthy hair is hair that should not have visible breakage or too much shedding. It should have a nice moisture balance and be uniform in length throughout, unless cut into a style. Healthy hair should also possess a healthy intact hairline (edges).

In the area of customer service, I enjoy taking the time to fully understand the client’s hair needs and desires, executing them to the best of my ability and experiencing the pleasure of a satisfied client once the service is complete. Some people feel great when they receive a tip for services performed. Who wouldn’t? But I feel great when my clients schedule return appointments as well as refer other people to me. Building relationships with my clients is very rewarding for me.

If I could change one thing about the hair care field, I would change the integrity of the products used and services offered in the hair industry. I would create a governing agency like the FDA for the hair industry to ensure product safety and to monitor the long term effects of the products and services offered.”

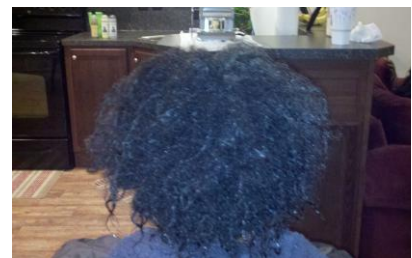
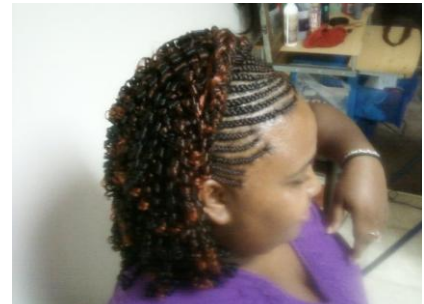
Her style photos include: a partial weave with cornrowed extensions, tree braids (also called lace braids), and before and after photos of a transitioning client who has received straightening services.

Through this stylist showcase, you can see: We are truly blessed! We give thanks. Now, come for a visit and let us bless you too! ☺



Kamice Somerville

“My mother was natural for over 95% of my life. She was proud to be naturally beautiful and so am I. I guess being natural and my love for natural hair has been a lifelong lesson.”



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Embrace the Beauty of You.

We're on the Web!

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More Tips for Wash & Go Wearers

Back in November, I wrote an article for ladies who wear the wash & go. The look is all the rage and is the total *embodiment* of "hot" (or so I've heard the men say). And as it's about as natural as you can get, I say "*live long and prosper.*" ☺ Do you! All the same, I feel the need to caution the readers of this newsletter about the perils of over-sporting this look.

The wash & go is very convenient and very easy. But "easy" should not translate to maintenance-free. You really should take some important steps towards protecting your ends, particularly at night. I have seen some clients of late who are wearing the style rather frequently to the detriment of their ends. The result is breakage in the back or side of the hair (typically wherever the hair hits the pillow) and considerable dryness. I cannot over-emphasize the need to braid or twist and/or wrap the hair at night if you are going to wear this style regularly. Otherwise, the ends may become over-exposed and damaged. Back in the day, one of the nightly routines of Afro wearers was to braid the hair up before sleeping. Somewhere in the new dispensation, this message has been lost. It needs to be retrieved urgently. If you are trying not to have to re-set and re-shape your hair by skipping the braids, there is an alternative. Try using a satin bonnet which allows you to lift your hair towards the crown of your head. My brother Glen's [Wollylock](#) is an excellent option for those looking for the right type of covering and fit. Then, use a light oil to freshen up the look. This should allow you to leave the house without a wet head but with a fresher look. If you opt for braids or twists, mist the hair, braid/twist and diffuse to dry. Sleep and loosen the braids/twists in the morning. Separate and style the braids according to your preference. It's not technically a wash & go but gets the same effect. As noted in a previous post, I prefer the twist out to the wash & go because I don't do well with walking around with wet hair. This tip offers the look with no damage! Sweet!!

About Our Organization...

As the first natural hair salon in Raleigh, NC, *Schatzi's* is a *one-stop shop* for all of your natural hair care needs. With a warm and nurturing ambiance for clients to "Embrace the Beauty of You," *Schatzi's* is located in the Park on Millbrook Condominium

complex, near the intersection of Six Forks and Millbrook Rds.

Schatzi's design gallery provides services that nurture natural hair with talented stylists who are happy to guide you through and beyond the transition process. Our two-floor art

gallery is provided courtesy of local artist Jasmine Hawthorne.

Au Naturel newsletter, an essential part of our information sharing services, is a wondrous labor of love that is a joy to create and a gift to you our valued clients and to the public at large.

SCHATZI'S
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