**Endorsements**

The following endorsements have already been received:

Shirley Hufstedler, Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare in the Carter Administration. She said, *“With all of us enmeshed in bad economic news, it is a wonderful opportunity to shed our glooms to read your stories of some inspiring black women of America who have succeeded admirably in their own lives and who have changed for the better the lives of many other human beings in the United States. This book contains wonderful insights about what each human being can do to make his or her life better and those of others in our country. It is the best antidote to selfishness that I have read in many years.*

Lynn Twist, author of *The Soul of Money,* and co-founder of The Pachamama Alliance. *“Dr. Weedn has deeply studied the lives of contemporary African American women. In her thoughtful and important book, she highlights their considerable accomplishments and contributions, despite prejudice and other challenges unique to this population; definitively proving that power and privilege are ultimately no match for courage, determination, and generosity. Her message is brilliant, timely, and inspiring.”*

Afeni Shakur-Davis, former Black Panther, activist, founder of *The Tupac Amaru Shakur Center for the Arts.* She said, *“Thank-you, Sonnee, for sharing these voices with us. These wonderful women, some of whom I know, love and cherish in my own life and work, are a vibrant reminder of how the extraordinary choices in the lives of ordinary people, can transform them forever. These women are towers of strength, love, wisdom and feisty determination. By sharing new and different stories, you have given us fresh beacons of hope and laughter; seeds to help us all press forward. There can never be too many ‘woman stories’; our sons, fathers, our daughters, sisters and grandmothers need and deserve to hear these.”*

Ana Nogales, Ph.D., author of *Parents Who Cheat* and *Latina Power* and founder of La Casa de la Familia and Nogales Psychological Services. She said, *“Dr Weedn enlightens and inspires readers by presenting the amazing stories of women who have courageously faced up to difficult challenges in their lives and became empowered by those experiences. This book teaches us that women have the power to value who they are, to develop their own personal strengths, and to accomplish their goals regardless of adversity. We need to hear these inspiring stories, as they represent the voices of so many women.”*

Frank Marshall, producer/director and five-time nominee for Academy

awards for films such as *The Color Purple, Seabiscuit, and Raiders of the Lost Ark.* He said, "*This book is very compelling. These stories are truly inspirational and the women become role models while making positive contributions to society. I think it is a fine book."*

Marci Shimoff, author of *Happy for No Reason* and co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Soul.* She said, “*Many Blessings: A Tapestry of African American Women offers an insightful look at the life journeys of thirty-one contemporary African American women. Inspiring and compelling.”*

The artist, Flavia said, *“Dr. Weedn has opened doors that needed opening so others could see what she has seen in these strong black women who continue to grow and reach. The real gifts of time are the sharing of moments, and the moments you’ll share with those who read your book will stay with them forever. You have surrounded yourself with those of great strength, power and direction; qualities you must know you have yourself.”*

Angeles Arrien, Ph.D., author of *The Four Fold Way* and *The Second Half of Life.* She said, *“This is an original collection of diverse voices from different parts of the country. Each woman’s voice strongly educates, inspires, and motivates the reader to make a difference in both small and large ways. The seven themes under which the voices are placed are in themselves a rich and informative education in demonstrating the range of creativity possessed in the human spirit.”*

Schyleen Qualls, President of Arkeon Entertainment. She said, *“What you have done in writing your book is really special. You have stepped outside of yourself to reach out to your sisters of color in such a powerful and grace-filled way. I really want to thank-you for having the courage to expand the definition of who you are, and in the process, to be giving all of us stories that will help us to go beyond who we think we are and what we are capable of doing or giving to our world. It’s a really, really special gift.”*