

**CRAFT  
BREWERS  
CONFERENCE**  
& BrewExpo America®



#CraftBrewersCon

# **Brewing and Fermentation in Ancient Civilizations**

The History (and Future) of BIWoC in Beer

“The future emerges from the past”  
- Senegalese Proverb



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HARLEM BREWING



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MUJERES BREW HOUSE



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LIFTING LUCY (BIWoC In BEER)



## **Ashlie Randolph**

Founder

BRAWTA CRAFTS & BREW



# A Woman's Work

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A woman's place has always been in fermentation



# Q: How did women in ancient civilizations find themselves as brewsters?

## Expressions of Fermentation Where Women Reigned

- Medicinal
- Commerce
- Cultural Preservation
- Socialization/Hospitality/Diplomacy
- Maternity/Milk Production
- Honor (Weddings, Funerals, Rite(s) of Passage)





# **Brewing in the African Diaspora**





Ninkasi is well known as a beer goddess in the industry, but there was Mbaba Mwana Waresa, the Zulu Goddess of rainbows, fertility and beer! To carry on the tradition, she taught her community how to brew.



## Beginning of Civilization

- Commerce
- Cultural Preservation
- Socialization/Hospitality

## Middle Passage

- Freedom Seekers and Southern Traditions (Patsy Young)
- Caribbean Region
- Brewing Traditions from Africa and Foodways

## Modern Beer Goddesses

- Traditional Brewers throughout the continent
- Kweza Craft Brewery and Brewsters Craft





# Brewing in the Latin Diaspora





Q: Traditional beers, such as chicha, have recently been described as *hidden, lost, or discovered*. Is this the case? Did these traditional beers ever go anywhere?



## Cervecerías Originales

- OG Mujeres Brewhouses
- Social and Communal

## Columbusing

- Just because it's "new" to you, that doesn't mean it's new at all.

## Mujeres Brewhouse

- Craft, Culture, Diversity, Community
- Immersion beyond beer





# **Brewing in the Native North and Meso American Diaspora**





Q: Peoples native to this land brewed beer long before Europeans arrived. How can we honor the oldest brewing traditions of what are now called North America and Central America?



## Agriculture & Foodways

- Connection to the Land
- Existing Fermentations Practices

## Bow & Arrow Brewing Co.

- Established in 2016
- First Native Female-Owned Brewery in the US

## Native Land Collaboration

- National Collaboration
- Emphasis on Land Acknowledgment
- Mission to Provide Resources for Native-Focused Non-Profits





# **Brewing in the Asian and Polynesian Diaspora**





Q: Archaeologists in Southeastern China recently discovered the residue of beer drunk 9,000 years ago. What expressions of beer (and its origination) are not being explored and/or authentically honored?



## All Brewsters are Tojis

- Sake Myth vs. Reality
- Misconception of “virtue”
- Reclaiming Time and Traditions

## Polynesian Brewing Traditions

- Dole Committee of Safety
- Polynesian Traditions Impacted by Outlaw of languages other than English in Educational Institutions (1896)
- Resistance through Fermentation

## Malama

“To tend to, care for, preserve, protect, watch over”



**Q: How are modern BIWoC, such as yourselves, ensuring their culture has a place in modern craft beer culture?**



Barrel & Flow Fest



## Appreciation vs. Appropriation

- “What’s the difference?”
- Authenticity Over Everything!
- Put the Cape Away

## Current Examples

- Dos Luces
- Montclair Brewery
- Raices
- Arbeiter Brewing Company
- Chula Vista Brewery
- Rhythm Brewing Company
- Spaceway Brewing
- Atrevida Brewing
- Many More

## We are Our Sister’s Keepers

- “When women support each other, incredible things happen.”
- “Sometimes being a brother is even better than being a superhero.” - March Brown



# Resources



BA DEI

<https://www.brewersassociation.org/programs/diversity/#tab-resources>

BA DEI BEST PRACTICES

<https://www.brewersassociation.org/playlist/diversity-best-practices/>



# THANK YOU!

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