

The CV Drum

News & Views

The monthly news beat and photo album of African-American Communities in Northern California's Mid-Central Valley+



Volume 5, NEWS & VIEWS

www.cvdrumnews.weebly.com

June/July AT 2009

If print journalism
perished, why is there
still tremendous
growth in:

- 2009 Civic Journalism
- 2009 Ethnic Journalism
- 2009 Public Journalism
- 2009 Citizen Journalism
- 2009 Advocacy Journalism
- 2009 Community Journalism
- 2009 Russwurm's Journalism?

for some answers start at:
The CV Drum News &
www.cvdrumnews.weebly.com



Pictured above holding a copy of the CV Drum News is human rights activist **Nontombi Naomi Tutu**, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Azania/South Africa when she keynoted at the 2008 Tracy Women's Forum.

**If between 2005 & 2009 you have read or seen a better news album than
the CV Drum News
in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco or Los Angeles,
we will give you a free life-time subscription to
the CV Drum News!**

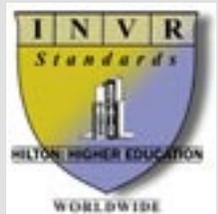
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IN EACH MONTHLY ISSUE

- News
- Statistics
- Race & Racism
- Re-empowerment
- Community Calendars
- Humor
- Lots of Photos
- Monthly Topics
- Building Community
- History/Commentary



Vital Statistics

...*qualitative*

Publisher

INVR Standards / HHEW

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Summer Wimberly (Princeton '10), Ekeoma Nwadiibia (UCLA '11), Jamari Perry (UC-Berkeley '11), Jamel Seagraves (Stanford '11), Lakea Youngblood (UCLA '11), Arayle Freels (Howard '12), Thurson Lopes (Morehouse '12), Matthew Miller (Stanford '12), Jules Boone (LUSD), Brianna Lewis (EGUSD).

Editor in Chief

Keith Orlando Hilton, Ph.D.



WORLDWIDE

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www.cvdrumnews.weebly.com
www.invrhhew.org

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Only \$5 per issue - 1-year subscription

Our Corrections Policy: Please contact us immediately if you see any published inaccuracies.

...*quantitative*



African Black Coalition (ABC) University of California, Merced

The African Black Coalition Conference Planning Committee at the University of California, Merced would like to thank the conference attendees, UC Merced campus community, Merced community and everyone else very much for all of their support.

This year's conference was a success in establishing a sustainable coalition working towards ensuring a diverse and representative University of California

public school system. Respectfully,

ABC Planning Committee

Kamilia Dews

ABC Chair & Staff Member

The CV Drum News' SAT (Student Ambassadors Team) Program

SAT operates with the belief that outstanding African-American students are positioned to; 1) actively break negative cycles occurring within African-American and ALANA communities nationally (ALANA stands for African, Latino, Asian and Native American); 2) speak positively about the mid-Central Valley; 3) speak positively about the growing advocacy role of the Black Press of America (in particular, the CV Drum News); 4) arrange for the TALO Leadership Theory to be discussed intelligently at their campuses annually; 5)



serve as student leaders on the CV Drum News advisory board; 6) attend and assist in the execution of one or more HHEW Leaders Conferences; 7) report semi-annually within the CV Drum News about academic and campus successes they are having in college; and 8) periodically contribute to the journalistic mission of the CV Drum News.



"...quantitative" is researched and provided through *The Civic Globe* polling and news (a *CV Drum* sister service).

It is now official; each time you are featured or mentioned in the CV Drum News, over 1/2 million people have access to your story.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Average Californian: [Redacted]
Average American: [Redacted]
Average Global Person: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]



Featured Patrons

Bishop Dwight Walter Amey Sr.,

pastor of New Faith Tabernacle Christian Church Of Merced.

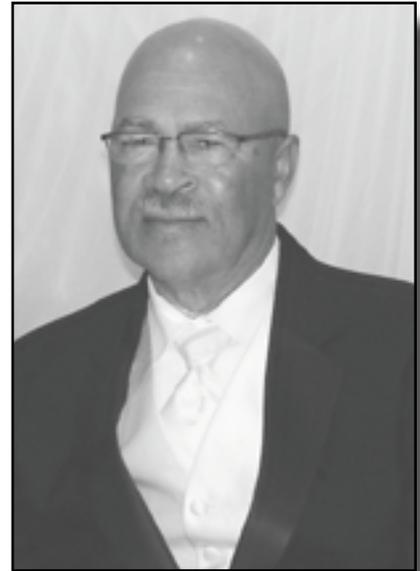
“He has a vision for God’s people, and there is no sacrifice that he is not willing to make for the work of the Lord and for the people of God.”

Bishop Dwight Amey’s civic and political leadership has earned him numerous awards for achievement in social ministry. He is a past member of the Merced City Council, Officer of the Courts, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, member of the Merced Citizen Advisory Redevelopment Agency, City of Merced Parks and Recreations Commissioner. President of Friends of Merced Parks and Community Service. Bishop also is the Committed Chairman for the Martin Luther King Celebration that is held annually.

He is also the Founder and Presiding Bishop of The Body Of Christ International Fellowship.

Bishop Amey is married to Pastor Gwendolyn Amey.

They have three sons and one daughter, and 15 grandchildren.



Other CV Drum Patrons featured this month:

St. Matthew Baptist Church (Merced), Roland Hart, M.D. (Stockton physician), Manteca Unified School District, Benjamin & Janie Reddish (Stockton educators), Col. (Ret.) Cleveland & Doris Edwards (Stockton), Barbara Lenoir (banking industry, Los Angeles), More patrons featured monthly.

Q: Who are CV Drum Patrons and how can I become one?

A: According to the TALO Leadership Theory©, from the moment Africans left Africa in mass during the Transatlantic slave trade (1520s - 1860s) and the earlier Arab slave trade (8th - 14th century), our leaders explicitly knew and consistently acted out the same leadership profiles that most of us today understand from the moment we leave our homes for work, worship, study or business. Today, patrons are individuals and organizations of all ethnicities who contribute \$275 and more to the CV Drum’s leadership and journalism efforts during one fiscal year. Patrons receive a 14-month subscription and will be listed in the Drum and/or on our Web site. If you are interested in subscribing, being a patron or advertising in the Drum, please call, email, write or visit our Web site.

Subscriptions Begin Within 3 Weeks

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- _____ only \$59 one-year individual subscription or (___ \$69 bill me)
- _____ only \$99 two-year individual subscription or (___ \$109 bill me)
- _____ only \$275 CV Drum Individual **Patron***
- _____ \$350 Couples/Family **Patron***
- _____ \$525 Non-Profit Group **Patron***
- _____ \$925 For-Profit Group **Patron***
- _____ Well-wisher _____ (\$ amount)

BIRTHDAY INFO (OPTIONAL)
Month _____
Day of Mth _____

* Patron status includes 14-month subscription and featured in newsletter (and/or Website)

Some 4th of July Humor

What did the visitor say as he left
 the Statue of Liberty? “Keep in torch!”

What’s big, cracked, and carries your luggage?
 The Liberty Bellhop!

What ghost haunted King George III?
 The spirit of ‘76!

Did you hear about the cartoonist in the
 Continental Army?
 He was a Yankee doodler!



CV Celebrations in the African Tradition:

Births, Birthdays, Engagements, Weddings, Graduations, Anniversaries, Career Promotions, Retirements ... and more!

Send us your announcements by the 2nd Wed. of the month - cvcelebrations@gmail.com

BIRTHDAYS

July 1 - Na'eel Zarif (Stockton) **July 2** - Teresa Kennedy (Tracy), **July 3** - Cheryl Mims (Vallejo), **July 3** - Linda Patrick (Stockton), **July 5** - Pamela Barrow (Stockton), **July 6** - Mary Kennedy Bracken (Tracy), **July 6** - Keith A. Young (Tracy), **July 7** - Virginia Magee (Stockton), **July 8** - Millard Hampton (Stockton), **July 9** - Ben Reddish (Stockton), **July 9** - Constance Smith (Stockton), **July 10** - Ruby J. McCrady (Merced), **July 10** - Katie Peters, Ed.D. (Stockton), **July 10** - Ron-

July 11 - Vincent Per-
11 - Shirley Washington
Dwayne McFadden (Man-
Marrow Copeland (Co-
- Linda Ward (Stockton),
ard (Highland Park, MI),
(Stockton), **July 16** - Win-
July 16 - Jack Forte, Jr.



*Damali Robertson
Hayward*

17 - Mona Washing-
21 - Marilyn Todd
- Barbara Ann Dockery

- Shanice Gorman (Stockton), **July 26** - LaVenna Gray, **August 3** - Lula Powell (Atwater), **August 3** - Linda Millett (Redding), **August 3** - Damali Robertson (Hayward), **August 13** - Barbara J. Lenoir (Los Angeles), August 16 - Essie Gordon (Atwater), **August 22** - Dr. Elliott Chambers (Lodi).



*Barbara Lenoir
Los Angeles*

dy Scippio (Stockton),
rault (Stockton), **July**
(Stockton), **July 12** -
teca), **July 13** - Devon
lumbia, SC), **July 13**
July 14 - Gale How-
July 14 - Na'imah Zarif
ifred Braxton (Stockton),
(Modesto), **July**
ton (Stockton), **July**
(Turlock), **July 23**
(Atwater), **July 24**



*Devon M. Copeland
Columbia, SC*



Stocktonians proudly celebrate politics from Stockton City Hall to Rhode Island City Hall

A man with very deep Stockton roots, **B. Joe Reddish III**, is town council president and mayor of the Town of Richmond, RI. He was first elected November 2006 and his term ends in 2010. Richmond is a town of approximately 7300 residents in rural Rhode Island. He is the first African-American council member and council president in the town.

He is also Assistant Vice President for RBS Citizens Bank in Seekonk, Massachusetts.



Two newest members of the Esquire Club, Inc. (Stockton area)

Name these two men by August 15th and win two free months of the CV Drum News.



Stockton Area

What's Good...



We list events that will happen for next two months in your area, so send information to us ASAP. Call, email or mail.

According to The Elements of Journalism by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosensteil, there are nine elements of journalism. In order for journalists to fulfill their duty of providing people with information they need to be free and self-governing, they must follow these nine guidelines:

1. Journalism's first obligation is to the truth.
2. Its first loyalty is to the citizens.

Stockton Black Family Day 2009 Celebrations

<http://stocktonblackfamilyday.org/>

Black Student Union @ Cesar Chavez High School

The purpose of the Black Student Union of Cesar Chavez High School is to foster a sense of community among all students. The club's mission is to stimulate the intellectual, political, cultural, and social growth of all CCHS students, through enriching activities such as; general meetings, leadership mentoring, and community service. The club seeks to educate its members and the larger community, in hopes that awareness will spark action and ignite change in local communities. Black Student Union is a community that is committed to intellectual, cultural, social, and ethnic diversity. The club's main focus is to build awareness, education, and a new level of consciousness about being an African-American in this society. The club is committed to building a stronger community within a larger community. It plans on doing so by building history and fostering creativity and leadership, continuing to be leaders and role models. Members believe that, "men and women of ordinary ability will become pillars of strength when aroused by desire, and stimulated by action."

The Community Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired regularly welcomes the public to open houses of the Center. CCBV is located at 130 W. Flora Street in Stockton. For more information: call (209) 466-3836 or email: info@communitycenterfortheblind.org. CCBV serves Lodi, Stockton, Manteca, and Tracy.

CV Drum News SAT
(Student Ambassadors Team) Member

Lakea Youngblood UCLA '11



My most challenging year!

2008-2009 was the most challenging year I have ever faced in my 15 years of education. The recession hit my family hard. My mother's income vanished and we were on the brink of losing our home. My 15 year-old cousin was shot in the head by a stray bullet and my 18 year-old cousin was violently attacked by a group of racist Caucasian students. A lot was going on at home and I still had to be a student.

At school, I picked up a second major, decided to take on a higher role at my job, re-founded the Black Pre-Law Association, created the Reading for Restoration and Liberation organization, researched the correlation between gang membership and leadership, applied to numerous scholarships and internships, established a scholarship bank, interned at the Daily Bruin, and also took 20 units (12 units is the requirement for full time students).

It was a lot, but I have gotten more out of this year than I have from any of my previous years of education. I learned how to smile and enjoy life even when there seemed like there was nothing to smile about. I learned to appreciate the small things in life and even created a stress free formula for myself. Less Stress= At least one day off (from everything that is not fun or relaxing) + Meditation.

The book/movie "The Secret" was also instrumental in helping me remain positive. I hate to be cliché, but this year showed me the meaning of the popular quote "pressure makes diamonds". I am a stronger person after this year and confident that no challenge is greater than I am. I encourage those in the shadow of difficult times now, especially younger generations to take the good, the bad, the difficult, and the easy and let it mold you into a better person. You will only be a diamond in the end.

Elk Grove Area

What's Good...



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- 3. Its essence is discipline of verification.
- 4. Its practitioners must maintain an independence from those they cover.

Did you know that the City of Ione, on state routes 104 and 124, has an African-American population of approximately 20%? It is 30 miles southeast of Sacramento, and 30 miles northeast of Stockton.

The Alpha Academy (for young men) Cosumnes River College, Sacramento

- A cceptance
- L eadership
- P erseverance
- H onesty
- A ccountability

- A ttitude
- C haracter
- A dvancement
- D etermination
- E xcellence
- M astery
- Y outh

REMAINING 2009 DATES:

- Sat, September 20
- Sat, October 18
- Sat, November 15
- Sat, December 20

For more info:

Travis Parker
(916) 691-7636
 John Taylor
(916) 501-7640

**Purchase the CV Drum at Carol's Bookstore,
 Sacramento, 1913 Del Paso Blvd
 (916) 646-6525**

Congratulations to Mary A. Lawson & John L. Thomas of Sacramento who not only got married (and jumped the broom), but also moved to Atlanta.



Do people really retire from the great UC system?

Be the first person by September 1st to name this long time employee at UC-Davis and win a free 6-months subscription to the CV Drum News.



**Help us keep our online calendar of events current!
 go to:
www.cvdrumnews.weebly.com**

CentralPage...

Monthly Media Message

Keith Orlando Hilton, Ph.D.

Getting to Know You:

MCHS's Graduating Seniors of 2009
by Jules Boone (Lodi Unified)
CV Drum News Student Ambassador



Monique Warren, Simone Cooper, Stephen Solomon, Jessica Russel, Lachesha Mason, Denzel Jackson, and Jules Boone are not your average high school seniors - each one of them attends the highly recognized and decorated Middle Col-

lege High School of Lodi Unified School District. It is located on Delta College's campus.

Although there are only seven Black students graduating this year, their accomplishments and dreams far exceed their small number. **Monique Warren** (17 years old), plans on attending the University of Southern California, with a major and career choice of chemical engineering. Her interests range from leisure writing to playing soccer.

Simone Cooper (18 years) is everyone's favorite comedian; no matter what is going on, she always has something to say (or do) to make everyone laugh. But, don't let Ms. Cooper's humor fool you; she plans to attend the University of the Pacific in Stockton and major in international relations, with hopes of becoming a UN ambassador.

Stephen Solomon (18), is MCHS's acclaimed writer. Beginning his freshman year he wowed friends and faculty with his fiction novel, *Warrior X*, and is continuing the trend with his monthly installments of *Soul Raider* in the school's newspaper. He aspires to attend CSU Monterey Bay with a major in creative writing.



KOH, Ph.D.,
CV Drum News Editor

*Continued success to all the women le
and especially to the lovely and a
of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc. - Stockton*

Pictured right are wives of the charter members in attendance at the Boule Gala held at the Brookside Country Club in Stockton.



...CentralValley

aders throughout the Central Valley,
accomplished wives (Archousai)
ckton/Central Valley Member Boule



Continued from Page 8
Jules Boone with her grandmother,
Charlotte A. Buchanan, also a
2009 graduate of
San Joaquin Delta College -



*Pictured below; Jules with her prom date,
Floyd Hill. Jr.*



Jessica Russel (18), is the lovable punk rocker of the group. Although she can often be found in multiple belts and skinny jeans, she has no problem hitting the books. She wants to go to Sacramento State and complete the R.N. program.

Lacresha Mason (18), is a born talk show host. No matter where she is, Ms. Mason can be found

listening to her friends, reporting the latest celebrity gossip, or giving useful advice. However, her calling is in education, and she would love to teach elementary school. Her university of choice? CSU Stanislaus.

Denzel Jackson (17) is a one-of-a-kind type of guy. With the perfect balance of wit, humor, and interesting antics, there is never a dull moment in his presence. An avid artist, he has aspirations of being featured in galleries, with his pieces portraying different aspects of the human body and portraiture.

Last but not least is me, **Jules Boone**, the free-spirit of the bunch. I will be attending San Francisco State and majoring in history.



Praying hands for all 2009 school graduates - Stockton's BEASUSD

Pictured on Page 8 are four 2009 graduates of Middle College High School of Lodi Unified School District. Photo by J. Boone



Tracy Area

What's Good...



We list events that will happen for next two months in your area, so send information to us ASAP. Call, email or mail.

According to *The Elements of Journalism* by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosensteil, there are nine elements of journalism. In order for journalists to fulfill their duty of providing people with information they need to be free and self-governing, they must follow these nine guidelines:

5. It must serve as an independent monitor of power.
6. It must provide a forum for public criticism and compromise.

The first issue/episode of the CV Drum News was July 2005

Tracy Chamber of Commerce & City of Tracy

Annual 4th of July Celebration - Saturday, July 4th
6 a.m. to 5 p.m. @ Lincoln Park.

Fireworks at Tracy High Stadium @ 9:20 p.m.

Event consisted of:

- Hot Air Balloon Lift Off - Pancake Breakfast - 4th of July Parade - Lil Miss 4th of July competition - Lil Mr. 4th of July competition - Vendors - Hamburger Cook-off competition - Best Pie contest - Famous Dave's Buffalo Wing eating contest - Community Stage with entertainment for the whole family

Tracy City Council meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Special meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis by the City Council. Meetings are held at the Council Chambers at City Hall, 333 Civic Center Plaza. Regular meeting agendas are published at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Special meeting agendas are published at least 24 hours in advance. Current agendas are available online. Agendas of all Council meetings are also available for public viewing at:

- * Tracy Public Library, 20 East Eaton Avenue
- * City Hall, 333 Civic Center Plaza

Juneteenth: When you take away the dancing...



...which is nice...



...and you take away the singing, which is also nice...



...sometimes it is just as nice to see two or three generations of African-American men together!

Modesto Area

What's Good...



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According to The Elements of Journalism by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosensteil, there are nine elements of journalism. In order for journalists to fulfill their duty of providing people with information they need to be free and self-governing, they must follow these nine guidelines:

- 7. It must strive to make the significant, interesting, and relevant.
- 8. It must keep the news comprehensive and proportional.

Modesto Chamber of Commerce Mixer

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites

Date: Thursday, August 21st

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Location: 4300 Bangs Avenue

Contact: Geri Lewis

Phone: (209) 577-5757

Email: glewis@modchamber.org

Details: Chamber mixers are an opportunity for members to conduct "business after hours." Mixers allow the host of the event to showcase their product or service with a soft sell approach. These networking gatherings also allow people to socialize and do business outside the constraints of their offices. Mixers are free of charge to attend. All business hosts provide hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

The administration of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra has been asked to present a special session at the National Arts Marketing Project (NAMP) Conference (October 30 - November 2). Caroline Nickel and Clay Campbell of the MSO staff, along with MSO market research consultant, Surale Phillips, will be speaking at the NAMP Conference to be held in Providence, Rhode Island in November. The conference is hosted by the National Arts Marketing Project which offers information, tools and practical ideas to design high-quality, cost-effective marketing programs for arts organizations. National Arts Marketing Project is managed by the Arts & Business Council of Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading non-profit organization for advancing the arts in America.

Riverbank mayor resigns

Recently **David I. White**, mayor of Riverbank in Stanislaus County, and 2009 CV Drum News PIV honoree, resigned his post as mayor to accept an information systems position with Optum Health, a behavioral health company in San Diego.



He said he felt he couldn't turn down the job, which is a promotion, and the chance to live in San Diego, where he and his wife had planned to retire.

WHAT: The California Black Brown Summit

WHEN: November 6th - 7th

WHERE: Modesto Junior College (West Campus)
2201 Blue Gum Avenue, Modesto

WHY: The importance of the California BBS is highlighted by a quick glance at the current U.S. Census. In 2000 there were 282,125,000 Americans, 228,548,000 White, 35,818,000 Black, 35,622,000 Hispanic. That translates into a 31% general minority (Black-Brown) population and 69% for the general majority (White) population. This disproportionate statistic is the primary reason for the California BBS. Sentencing laws, substance abuse treatment, education, vocational training, employment, housing, medical, and mental health are key factors which must be addressed to support re-entry and impact recidivism reduction rates in this country.

The California Black-Brown Summit (BBS) will feature THE SECOND CHANCE ACT of 2007. This law has created the opportunity to make available resources which will impact Reentry & Recidivism programs in the nation's minority communities.

The Summit will feature national, state and local speakers, as well as, panels/workshops and plenary sessions.

The California BBS Open Forum and Dialogue will also present excellent workshops relevant to Black-Brown reentry and recidivism issues, with outstanding Latino and African-American moderators and panelists, whom are experts in their fields.

Visit the website: www.bbsummit.org, or call (209) 575-7991 or email: black-brown2@sbcglobal.net.

Merced Area

What's Good...



We list events that will happen for next two months in your area, so send information to us ASAP. Call, email or mail.

According to The Elements of Journalism by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosensteil, there are nine elements of journalism. In order for journalists to fulfill their duty of providing people with information they need to be free and self-governing, they must follow these nine guidelines:

9. Its practitioners must be allowed to exercise their personal conscience.

ST. MATTHEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Services:

Sunday Worship:
10 am

Bible Study:
Wednesday: 7 pm

Location:
1057 N Street
Merced

Phone:
(209) 722-2581



Dr. Jerry C. Huey, Pastor

St. Matthew Baptist Church is a proud patron of the CV Drum.

<http://www.mcaac.org/>

The Merced County African-American Connection (MCAAC) is a collaborative effort among four Merced County African-American organizations, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Ebony Socialites, NAACP and NCNW.

Juneteenth standouts recognized in Merced



Pictured above left is **Orelia Michelle Rhodes**, this year's Miss Juneteenth Merced. Her college of choice is Cal State University, East Bay, where she plans to major in Child Psychology. Beside her is **Natasha Dunham**, this year's runner-up. Natasha is a standout student at Cesar Chavez High School in Stockton.

A CV Drum News welcome to Professor Asmeret Berhe



According to the UC-Merced news blog (<http://ucmerced-news.blogspot.com>), Dr. Berhe joined the faculty a few months earlier. Her research interests involve how changing environmental conditions affect soil processes. She is a native of the east African country, Eritrea. She received her Ph.D. from UC-Berkeley.

But where is African-American Studies at the University of California, Merced?

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Bay Area | Sacramento | Northern California



A few more shots from Tracy's Juneteenth. For more photos visit the website of TAAA - Tracy African American Association.

Southern California | The Nation | The World

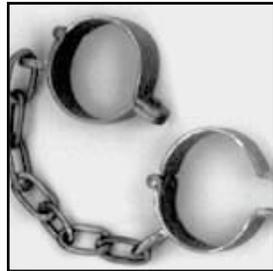


Pictured left are some of the California delegates to the 6th Annual HHEW Conference & Retreat held in Las Vegas at Fitzgeralds Hotel & Casino. They came from places as diverse as Sacramento, the Bay Area, Long Beach, the Central Valley, Santa Barbara, the Inland Empire of Southern California and LA. **Pictured below** are the four national planning committee members (l-r); **Bruce Cobbs** from Atlanta, **Derrick Woodson** from Miami, **Clint Williams** from San Antonio, and **Linda Kelly** from Chicago.



Central Valley residents, this is the only local or national event that is specifically designed for the PIVs (Peaks in the Valley) -- African-American leaders to meet and discuss our issues.

Race & Racism



June Black Music Month is Universal

While even most African-Americans think that black music begins and ends in the United States, this is inaccurate and narrow in thinking. There is a lot of great music further south. And although more people in the United States are familiar with reggae, there is another musical style that is equally as African, rhythmic and loved in the Caribbean. How many of you are familiar with calypso and specifically how many of you have any songs or music by the legendary **Calypso Rose**?



Calypso Rose fuses the rhythms and melodies of Africa, Central America, and the Caribbean.

She is considered by many to be one of the premier ambassadors of Caribbean music. Rose began her illustrious career at the age of 15 in the village of Bethel on the beautiful Caribbean island of Tobago (as in Trinidad and Tobago). As a woman in a male arena, she has often challenged the world with her music.

In 1966, Rose wrote the immortal "Fire In Me Wire", a song which has become a Calypso anthem. It has been recorded in eight languages and is still the first Calypso to be sung for two consecutive years at the annual carnival competition in Trinidad and Tobago.



Trinidad & Tobago's national flag

The CV Drum News welcomes letters, pro and con, to essays and information in this, and every episode. CVDrumnews@gmail.com

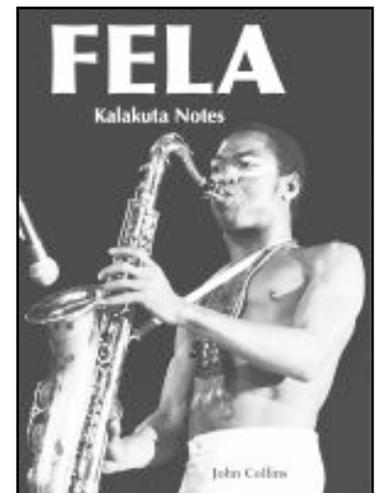
Joining the Ancestors

In the spirit of our Acknowledged African ancestors, each month we will honor community and family members who have recently passed in the Mid-Central Valley (and if space allows, relatives outside of the Valley). Space is limited. Send us your full announcements with photos by the second Wednesday of the month for publication consideration. This month's page is dedicated to the memories of: **all the spiritual musical activists of past who challenged "gospel commercialism."**



Afro-beat music from the Continent

Always remembering one of the best of the 20th Century
1938-1997



Maybe the hardest working performer in Africa. Listening to and watching the late, great **Fela Anikulapo Kuti** was and is like watching James Brown, Bob Marley, Gil Scott Heron and Duke Ellington rolled up into one. A Nigerian by birth, Fela was a musician and composer, pioneer of afrobeat music, human rights activist, and political activist -- deeply influenced by the black power movement in the USA after a trip to LA and reading about Malcolm X.

The CV Drum News is the only African-American owned (and the only) publication period that covers our communities from Merced south to Redding north.

CV Community Conversation

THIS MONTH'S GUEST ESSAYIST

Arayle Freels from Merced (& CV Drum News SAT Ambassador)

Year One Reflections from Howard University, Washington, DC



In retrospect August 16, 2008 came so quickly. It seemed like I walked straight off the graduating stage to the airport check in counter. In reality getting to school was a bit of a challenge. Besides having my initial flight to DC cancelled which delayed my arrival by two days and flying in on a completely different plane than my mother, the three hour time difference made the trip seem like an eternity.

Once my mother and I arrived on campus, we took my three suitcases to my room and she went back to our families' home in Maryland. I felt alone but not afraid. I hadn't taken a tour of the campus before arriving so I was slightly lost. As difficult as my trip may sound, it wasn't so bad.

Finding my way around campus gave me an instant sense of independence that has stayed with me ever since. I endured a mixture of wonderful and difficult experiences while at the Mecca, each of which contributed to my overall enjoyment. The campus offered many activities however I chose to focus more on academics and work. If I could go back I would be more involved in student organizations and activities.

A major worry for many students and parents is the roommate situation. I was blessed with a great roommate who challenged my mind through debate (or arguing) and always helped me see things from a different perspective, I am glad to say I now consider her to be my friend.

Throughout this entire year the people from this community have continued to support me and keep me in their prayers which have greatly contributed to the wonderful first year I had.

If you are interested in being a guest essayist for CV Community Conversation, please submit your 300-400 word essay on any relevant community or Valley topic, along with your photo and brief bio.

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The CV Photo Gallery



Congratulations to the newly chartered Epsilon Eta Member Boule
(Stockton/Central Valley) of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



According to Sigma Pi Phi Grand Historian Rodney J. Reed, “At the dawn of the twentieth century black men of distinction had long functioned in various leadership posts, especially in the churches and benevolent association movement. Some, notably Frederick Douglass among them, had even served in high government posts. But by and large they lived lives separate from those of the black masses and the white professionals. In 1904 a small group in Philadelphia set out to create an organization that would provide a vehicle for men of standing and like tastes to come together to know the best of one another.” **Founded on May 14, 1904 in Philadelphia, PA**, Sigma Pi Phi is generally considered to be the first African-American Greek-lettered organization. Today Sigma Pi Phi has over 5,000 members and 122 member boules throughout the United States and the Caribbean. Considered by many to be the most exclusive group of men of African-descent in the world, all its members have college degrees and are accomplished in their professional fields, such as in government & politics, the medical professions, education, corporate America, media and law, etc. The organization is also known as “the Boule,” which means “a council of noblemen.” Once considered a secret society, today, through its social action program, Sigma Pi Phi publicly engages in social issues such as urban housing, and other economic, cultural, and political issues affecting people of African descent. The organization is also proud of its focus on family and creation of a forum “wherein [men of...like tastes] can pursue social and intellectual activities in the company of peers.” **The chartering of the Stockton/Central Valley Boule** now also connects local African-American leadership with those in many other metropolitan areas such as Sacramento, the Bay Area, LA, San Diego, Chicago, Atlanta, Washington DC, Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

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