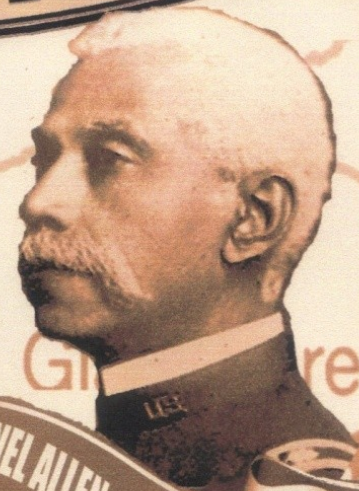


ALLENSWORTH

STATE PARK



JOSEPHINE LEWAVELL ALLENSWORTH



COLONEL ALLEN ALLENSWORTH

HONORING THESE PIONEERING SPIRITS



Dr. Dorothy Heights



Mary McLeod Bethune



Fanny Lou Hamer



Shirley Chisholm



Ida B. Wells



Ella Baker



Biddy Mason



Bessie Coleman



Carol Mosely Braun



Sojourner Truth



Marian Wright Edelman



Maxine Waters



Rosa Parks



Michelle Alexander



Vassie Wright



Dr. Maya Angelou



Angela Davis



Mary Pleasant

Struggle Success Legacy

JULY 11, 2015

WE CAN FOUNDATION

# Welcome to Allensworth

## Our Historical Black Town

On this day we will pay tribute to Josephine Allensworth the wife of Colonel Allensworth and also honoring the pioneering spirits of African American women's, their struggle, success and their legacy.

History teaches that African-American women have been breaking barriers around the world and changing the way the world is viewed and functions since humans began to walk the Earth.

Women have had to walk the extra mile and fought courageous battles to awaken the world from injustice and to bring it up to a place where it understands that change is needed. Their collective and historical efforts have positioned the world in a better place and provided us all and themselves with a greater level of acceptance and recognition as vital citizens who have contributed to the world.

At this time, we want to focus on and acknowledge the important roles the countless African American women have played in today's world. We want show our appreciation for them and their contributions to American and World history.

Their contributions are in many areas but are not limited to: Honor, Influence, Integrity, Achievements and Contributions in Science, Education, Politics, Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy.

We are enjoying this wonderful event due the hard work of collective teams and organizations, Eagle wings of Enlightenment, WE Can Foundation, Our Authors Study Club, Nappy Wood, Bless -ed love, Rhythms of the Village ,Kenneth Wyrick, Maude Johnson, Sabrina Markos, Mataji, Linda Morgan, Regina Kimble, Qebhu Uzeri , Eugel Nicoleau.

Sincerely, Rev. C.Eziokwu and my wife Sandra Chinyere Washington



**The Host**

*James Janisse*

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\*All Performers Welcome  
\*www.HOME90210.com

Once again we are pleased to have James as our Master of Ceremonies. He is one of L.A.'s most recognizable Jazz & Blues enthusiasts. He was an on-air personality with radio station KKJZ, 88.1FM (formerly KLON) from 1992 to 2006. His wide ranging knowledge of Jazz filled the longest continuing shift on KKJZ each weekday from midnight to 6am. He is currently the host of "The Wonderful World of Jazz", \*now broadcasting everyday at Noon and every night at Nine on [www.kebnradio.com](http://www.kebnradio.com)



The Wonderful World  
of *Jazz*  
with James Janisse

### "The Gentleman of Jazz"

One of the World's most recognizable Jazz enthusiasts, James Janisse hosts "The Wonderful World of Jazz" on KEBN Radio.com. Janisse was an on-air personality with radio station KKJZ, 88.1FM (formerly KLON) from 1992 to 2006 and amongst numerous other projects, he is currently the voice of Jazz on United Airlines.



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and he is transitioning to a 24 hour,7 day a week Jazz and Blues service on his own internet radio station \*[www.kjmradiocom](http://www.kjmradiocom) <<http://www.kjmradiocom>>\*.He is also a program host and staff announcer at radio station KCRW 89.9FM. His smooth voice and charming personality are often at the forefront of events related to Jazz, Gospel, The Blues and Rhythm & Blues, all across Southern California. He is happily married to his wife of 15 years, Vanzella.

This Year's Allensworth Theme:

# Honoring and Uplifting the Pioneering Spirit of African-American Women

The actual story of African-American Women has been a prominent one in the survival of the race. But it has been one without the appreciation and value such an important role deserves. Black folks, especially Black Women, have always been a part of California. In fact, California is named after a Black Woman, Queen Kalifah, and California was her land. She controlled shipping up and down the coast, centuries before the arrival of the European.. This California is the land of the mythological Black Goddess as referred to by the Spanish conquistadors and Los Angeles was founded by Bidly Mason and twenty-six other pioneers who entered the state to escape slavery and looking for a place to call home in 1856.

We will be honoring the pioneering spirit of African – American Women and this year awarding the Honorable Maxine Waters with a plaque for her years of excellent service in support of the community and her global efforts on behalf of humanity. A number of women to be featured or presenting at the festival including Dr. Rosie Millingan, Angels Davis, Bessie Coleman, Mary Mc Leod Bethune, Shirley Chisolm, Maya Angelou and many others. Please take some time to review their biographies featured in our program. Clearly, knowledge and appreciation of the beautiful history and struggles of African American Women is an area that has received minimal focus and attention in today's society.

This year's festival will feature arts and crafts, jazz, blues, reggae, a drum circle and a tribute to the pioneering spirit of Black Women, namely Jean Lavelle Allensworth, the wife of Colonel Allensworth. Linda Hopkins (a prior participant in the festival), Barbara Morrison (a featured performer this year) and other Blues, Reggae, Hip Hop and Jazz artists of both sexes that have also participated in the festival are people who have overcome the odds and adversity to share their talents and stories.. Each African American Woman has a story to tell and the Allensworth Festival is a place to come and witness some of their talents, listen to their stories and share their passion for future success. We all know that thoughts of one's self are limited by access to knowledge and good information about your history. With women, especially African American Women and others who have been systematically denied access and opportunity to value themselves from the greater society, having the Allensworth Festival feature the African-American Women's pioneering stories is a theme that deserves more respect and supportive action.

The We Can Foundation, as an innovator of education in California, recognizes the importance of African American women in the success and value of African American uplift and the entire planet. Within our own organization and education as an industry, the African American Woman is an important part of "what makes it happen." Just as the women of any important successful group, organization or community play a significant role, the women of We Can Foundation keep the organization's quality of service high. We Can's women are found at tutors, staff and management.

Two of the We Can Foundation's most important women are Michel McLaughlin, our Founder and President, and Annette Waller, the Instructors Manager. A prominent and instrumental woman on our Allensworth Planning Committee is Dr. Genevieve A. Shepherd, Ed.. Throughout their careers, each of these women has been tireless in their efforts to raise the prioritization of our children's education and all have had tremendous successes and as well as had to overcome significant challenges in their lives as pioneers in a patriarch male dominated society. We salute these and all African American Women not only for their achievements, but also for their courageous commitment to the improvement our lives and their above all their strength to love.

## Windy Barnes-Farrell & the LA Third Children's Choir



The LA Third Children's Choir consists of 15 talented boys and girls noted for their perfect blend, inspirational selections and outstanding soloists. Under the tutelage



of famed singer Windy Barnes Farrell, the children have been studying music theory, breathing techniques, interval training and more for the past 4 years. They made their debut performance at LA Third Church for Spiritual Living under the leadership of Rev. Lisa Meggs, in November 2011, and since then they have opened for Street Corner Renaissance at the Grand Annex in San Pedro, performed at the African

American Museum and local religious venues. Please come out and support our children. Love donations, smiles and hugs gladly accepted.

For bookings contact Windy at [windy2win@aol.com](mailto:windy2win@aol.com).



# Josephine Leavell Allensworth

A wonderful example of African American women's success in overcoming this shadow is Josephine Leavell Allensworth. She was the wife of Colonel Allen Allensworth, and was instrumental in assisting him in the founding of the town of Allensworth in Tulare County, California.

Mrs. Josephine Leavell-Allensworth is equally as much a worker for the betterment of the race as was her husband, Colonel Allensworth. She had a very fine education in every sense of the word a Christian gentle woman. She practically reared her two daughters in the army, having spent nearly if not twenty five years in the United States Army with her husband, during which time she lived at the different forts with her children

After their plotting of the townsite of Allensworth, Mrs. Allensworth began the study as to what she could do to benefit the community. She was instrumental in organizing a Women's Improvement Club. This club was instrumental in establishing a children's playground and many other improvements for the town of Allensworth. When a new school house was erected, the old building was donated to Mrs. Allensworth,

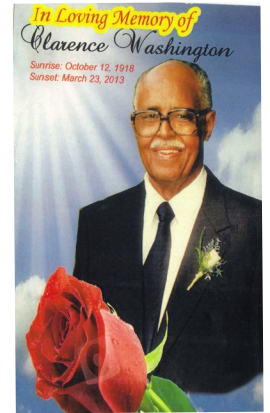
Mrs. Allensworth began the study as to what she could, and she purchased the ground upon which it now stands, had it remodeled and fitted out for a public reading room. Later she solicited the Rural Free Circulating library, to furnish them books. Colonel Allensworth and many others, including the writer, gave many books. The custodian of the free reading room is a colored girl who is paid by the County. Mrs. Allensworth has named the reading room a memorial library in honor of her mother, Mary Dickson. Mrs. Allensworth is president of the school board, and spends a portion of the year in Allensworth doing whatever she can for the betterment of the race and community.

Mrs. Allensworth was a sincere club worker, but the greatest work she has ever done was when she reared, with all the simplicity of greatness, two daughters who reflect, with credit, the strong personality of herself and husband. The writer refers to Mrs. Harrie Skanks and Mrs. L. M. Blodgett, who were the Misses Eva and Nella Allensworth.

They are thoroughly educated and are genuine gentlewomen of the old school of aristocracy, and have children whom they are rearing in the same delightful manner. Mrs. John M. Scott, the subject of this sketch, was reared and educated in Atlanta, Georgia. During her school days she took an active part in church work. She was married at an early age to Mr. John M. Scott, who at the time was one of the leading successful oil dealers of Atlanta. After a few years of married life Mr. Scott, wishing to advance in business, answered to the "Call of the West" and he and his wife moved to Los Angeles, California, where he entered the business world by building the first hall for fraternal meetings in the State. It is still in use and is known as the "Scott Hall," located at 561 Central Avenue. This hall was used by all of the race organizations in the City of Los Angeles until the erection several years later of the Odd Fellows Hall.

Mr. Scott for years has held the responsible position as mail clerk for the Santa Fe railroad division stationed in Los Angeles, having his own offices and handling thousands of pieces of mail daily. Through his decision to make Los Angeles his home the State and city have been richly benefited through the activities of his wife, who is untiring in her efforts to advance her race on a higher plane of living. This has been especially noticeable after she accepted the honor of an election to the presidency of the Sojourner Truth Club, of Los Angeles. The object of this club was to, at some future date, build a home for self-sustaining women. Mrs. Scott realized that such an undertaking,

# Encouraging Words



IN Memory of our patriarch Clarence Washington, who is now an ancestor, reiterating his blessing on behalf of our family to the success of our past and future Festivals in Allensworth in keeping the tradition of libation to recalling his words of his wisdom and his blessing on this honoring women's celebration in Allensworth.

Modern life can sometimes turn into a struggle. We imagine that no one can understand our travails and predicaments, and that we walk alone in our journey. Nothing can be farther from the truth. Whether we, near and far.

And know it or not, we walk in the paths hewn by the feet of our ancestors the more we learn from them the easier our next steps become – as individuals, as family and as a community.

My family has been blessed and for this I thank God. We live in the illumination of education about the world and our selves. We take for granted that we are the authors of our own destiny, limited only by our own talents and our willingness to put forth hard work. But we know we did not get to this state of being and mind of our own. WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF ALL THOSE WHO WENT BEFORE AND SUFFERED AND SACRIFICED SO THAT WE MAY ONE DAY DO AS WELL AS WE ARE DOING TODAY.

In our family, we recognize the value of education in the betterment of the individual, the family, and the community. Nothing transforms individuals as proudly as education. We are therefore proud to support Allensworth and the goal of igniting the thirst for knowledge and achievement in young students through education.

As Patriarch of the family, I say to my son,

**“Congratulation to you and all the organizers of this event.**

**We hope this is the first of many, many successful programs to come”**

We will never forget the true meaning of the pioneers of Allensworth on this, celebration. Let us like those pioneers; plant the seeds for the trees which will bear fruit long after our departure from this world. Let us inspire our young students to continue to excel in their education, find themselves in the search for knowledge, and thereby help society in the future!!

With admiration,

Your father Clarence Washington and your family of sisters, Uncle and Aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews

## LIFT EVERY VOICE

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of  
Liberty;  
let our rejoicing rise,  
high as the listening skies, let it  
resound loud as the rolling sea  
sing a song full of faith that the  
dark past has taught us,  
sing a song full of the hope that  
the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of a new day  
begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
bitter the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the day that hope unborn  
had died;  
yet with a steady beat,  
have not our weary feet,  
come to the place for which our  
fathers sighed?  
we have come over a way that with  
tears has been watered,  
we have come, treading our path  
through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we  
stand at last where the white gleam of  
our star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
thou who has brought us thus far on  
the way;  
thou who has by thy might,  
led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray  
lest our feet stray from the places, our  
God, where we met thee,  
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of  
the world, we forget thee,  
shadowed beneath the hand,  
may we forever stand,  
true to our God,  
True to our native land.

# Allensworth Program Content

10:30	Welcome	Rev. Eziokwu
10:32	Libation	Mataji & Rev Eziokwu
10:35	Black National Anthem	LA 3rd Church
10:40	Mc Introduction	
10:42	Voice of Josephine	Windy Barnes Farrell..... Performer
11:00	Act	LA 3d church choir..... Performer
11: 16	Act	Phillip Bell..... Performer
11:30	Act	Rahqua..... Performer
11:47	Voice of Ella Baker	Windy Barnes..... Performer
11: 51	Act	DR. Rosie Milligian..... Key note
12;10	Act	Nicole Kimbro..... Performer
12:25	Voice of Maya Angleu	Rev. Lisa Meggs..... Performer
12:29	Act	NEW DAY..... Performer
12:45	Act	WADADA..... Performer
1:00	act	AMET..... Performer
1;16;	Act	John Hill..... Keynote
1:30	Voice of Bessie Coleman	Linda Morgan..... Performer
1:33	Voice of Carol Mosely Braum	Tyra Huges ..... Performer
1;35	Act	Lady Z..... performer
1;50	Act	..... performer
2;10	Voice of Harriet Tubman	Dr. Rosie Milligian..... Performer
2;13	Voice of Rosa Parks	Drea Courtney..... Performer
2:15	Act	Brandy Kane..... Performer
2:30	Act	Sabine..... Performer
2:45	Act	..... Performer
3:00	Voice of Fannie Lou Hammer	Tyra Huges..... Performer
3;03	Voice of Bidly Mason	Camille Lourde..... Performer
3;06	Voice of Mary Ellen Pleasant	Dr. Rosie Milligian..... Performer
3;10	Arct	A Drea Courtney..... performer
3;30	Act	Jody Jaress..... performer
3;46	Act	Margreute Love..... performer
4;00	Voice of Angela Davis	Rahqua..... Performer
4;03	Voice of Maxine Waters	Linda Morgan..... Performer
4;06	Presentation	By Mataji, Rev. Meggs, Rev. Eziokwu
4:10	Act	Barbara Morrison..... performer
4;29	Act	Pat Sigh..... performer
4;46	Act	Camille Lourde..... performer
5pm	Voice of Sojuner Truth	Dr. Rosie Milligian..... Performer
5:04	Voice of Shirley Chism	Drea Courtney..... Performer
5;07	Act	Babby Bee..... performer
5;29	closing remarks	



# Maxine Waters

Elected in November 2014 to her thirteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives with more than 70 percent of the vote in the 43rd Congressional District of California, Congresswoman Waters represents a large part of South Central Los Angeles including the communities of Westchester, Playa Del Rey, and Watts and the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County comprised of Lennox, West Athens, West Carson, Harbor Gateway and El Camino Village. The 43rd District also includes the diverse cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita and Torrance.

Congresswoman Waters serves as the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Financial Services. An integral member of Congressional Democratic Leadership, Congresswoman Waters serves as a member of the Steering & Policy Committee. She is also a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and member and past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Maxine Waters was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the fifth of 13 children reared by a single mother. She began working at age 13 in factories and segregated restaurants. After moving to Los Angeles, she worked in garment factories and at the telephone company. She attended California State University at Los Angeles, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She began her career in public service as a teacher and a volunteer coordinator in the Head Start program.

She is married to Sidney Williams, the former U.S. Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. She is the mother of two adult children, Edward and Karen, and has two grandchildren.

Throughout her 37 years of public service, Maxine Waters has been on the cutting edge, tackling difficult and often controversial issues. She has combined her strong legislative and public policy acumen and high visibility in Democratic Party activities with an unusual ability to do grassroots organizing.

Prior to her election to the House of Representatives in 1990, Congresswoman Waters had already attracted national attention for her no-nonsense, no-holds-barred style of politics. During 14 years in the California State Assembly, she rose to the powerful position of Democratic Caucus Chair. She was responsible for some of the boldest legislation California has ever seen: the largest divestment of state pension funds from South Africa; landmark affirmative action legislation; the nation's first statewide Child Abuse Prevention Training Program; the prohibition of police strip searches for nonviolent misdemeanors; and the introduction of the nation's first plant closure law.

As a national Democratic Party leader, Congresswoman Waters has long been highly visible in Democratic Party politics and has served on the Democratic National Committee (DNC) since 1980. She was a key leader in five presidential campaigns: Sen. Edward Kennedy (1980), Rev. Jesse Jackson (1984 & 1988), and President Bill Clinton (1992 & 1996). In 2001, she was instrumental in the DNC's creation of the National Development and Voting Rights Institute and the appointment of Mayor Maynard Jackson as its chair. She is a co-founder of Black Women's Forum, a nonprofit organization., she also founded Project Build, working with young people in Los Angeles housing developments on job training .



## Michelle Alexander

Alexander is a graduate of Harvard University where she received a [Truman Scholarship](#). She served for several years as director of the Racial Justice Project at the [ACLU of Northern California](#), which spearheaded a national campaign against [racial profiling](#) by law enforcement. Alexander directed the Civil Rights Clinic at [Stanford Law School](#) and was a law clerk for Justice [Harry Blackmun](#) at the [U. S. Supreme Court](#) and for Chief Judge [Abner Mikva](#) on the [United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit](#).

As an associate at Saperstein, Goldstein, Demchak & Baller, she specialized in plaintiff-side [class action suits](#) alleging [race](#) and [gender discrimination](#). Alexander now holds a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the [Moritz College of Law](#) at Ohio State.

Alexander has litigated numerous class action discrimination cases and worked on criminal justice reform issues. She is a recipient of a 2005 Soros Justice Fellowship of the [Open Society Institute](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

Alexander published her first book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (2010). In it, she argues that systemic racial discrimination in the [United States](#) has resumed following the [Civil Rights Movement's](#) gains; the resumption is embedded in the US [War on Drugs](#) and other governmental policies and is having devastating social consequences. She considers the scope and impact of this current law enforcement, legal and penal activity to be comparable with that of the [Jim Crow laws](#) of the 19th and 20th centuries. Her book concentrates on the [mass incarceration of African-American men](#).

In *The New Jim Crow*, Alexander argues that mass incarceration in America functions as a system of racial control in a similar way to how Jim Crow once operated. Alexander writes, "Race plays a major role-indeed, a defining role – in the current system, but not because of what is commonly understood as old-fashioned, hostile bigotry. This system of control depends far more on racial indifference (defined as a lack of compassion and caring about race and racial groups) than racial hostility – a feature it actually shares with its predecessors." *The New Jim Crow* describes how she believes oppressed minorities are, "subject to legalized discrimination in employment, housing, public benefits, and jury service, just as their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents once were".



## Carol Moseley Braun

Born Carol Elizabeth Moseley on August 16, 1947, in Chicago, IL; daughter of Joseph (a police officer) and Edna (a medical technician) Moseley; married Michael Braun (divorced); children: Matthew, *Education*: University of Illinois, Chicago, BA; University of Chicago Law School, JD, 1972.

First Black Woman Elected to the Senate In 1992, Moseley Braun made the leap to the national political arena: She ran for a seat in the U.S. Senate, looking to unseat incumbent Democratic Senator Alan Dixon in the Democratic primary. Up against a seasoned politician who had spent decades in office, Moseley Braun appeared to be the underdog. But many responded to Moseley Braun as a chance for political change.

She won the primary, but faced another tough opponent in Republican Richard Williamson. Williamson tried to capitalize on Moseley Braun's mishandling of a tax situation. Although the scandal marred her campaign, she won the election, becoming the first African-American woman to win election to the U.S. Senate.

In 2003, she campaigned for the Democratic presidential nomination. Moseley Braun opposed the war in Iraq and spoke out about the country's economic situation, but she dropped out of the race in early 2004 after failing to garner enough support. She asked her supporters to vote for Howard Dean.

Braun was used to facing adversity, experience she hoped would lift her above any struggles she faces on her road to the White House. She told *CNN News*, as reprinted on *America's Intelligence Wire*, "I hope that this campaign will be about the future. That I'll be able to talk about my whole record as well as my standing for human rights, my standing for reform in government, my standing for inclusion. And that's what this campaign is all about, and that's why I'm so excited about it, because it gives me a chance to engage on those issues."





# Marian Wright Edelman

**Occupation:** lawyer, educator, activist, reformer, children's advocate, administrator  
**Known for:** founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund, first African American woman admitted to the Mississippi state bar

Marian Wright Edelman was born in and grew up in Bennettsville, South Carolina, one of five children. Her father, Arthur Wright, was a Baptist preacher who taught his children that Christianity required service in this world and who was influenced by A. Phillip Randolph Her father died when Marian was only fourteen, urging in his last words to her, "Don't let anything get in the way of your education."

Marian Wright Edelman went on to study at Spelman College, abroad on a Merrill scholarship, and she traveled to the Soviet Union with a Lisle fellowship. When she returned to Spelman in 1959, she became involved in the civil rights movement, inspiring her to drop her plans to enter the foreign service, and instead to study law. She studied law at Yale and worked as a student on a project to register African American voters in Mississippi.

In 1963, after graduating from Yale Law School, Marian Wright Edelman worked first in New York for the NAACP Legal and Defense Fund, and then in Mississippi for the same organization. There, she became the first African American woman to practice law. During her time in Mississippi, she worked on racial justice issues connected with the civil rights movement, and she also helped get a Head Start program established in her community. During a tour by Robert Kennedy and Joseph Clark of Mississippi's poverty-ridden Delta slums, Marian met Peter Edelman, an assistant to Kennedy, and the next year she moved to Washington, D.C., to marry him and to work for social justice in the center of America's political scene. They had three sons.

In Washington, Marian Wright Edelman continued her work, helping to get the Poor People's Campaign organized. She also began to focus more on issues relating to child development and children in poverty.

**Children's Defense Fund** Marian Wright Edelman established the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) in 1973 as a voice for poor, minority and handicapped children. She served as a public speaker on behalf of these children, and also as a lobbyist in Congress, as well as president and administrative head of the organization. The agency served not only as an advocacy organization, but as a research center, documenting the problems and possible solutions to children in need. To keep the agency independent, she saw that it was financed entirely with private funds. She also published her ideas in several books. *The Measure of our success : A letter to My Children and Yours* was a surprising success.

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# Dr. Maya Angelou

Born on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri, writer and civil rights activist Maya Angelou is known for her 1969 memoir, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which made literary history as the first nonfiction best-seller by an African-American woman. In 1971, Angelou published the Pulitzer Prize-nominated poetry collection *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die*. She later wrote the poem "On the Pulse of Morning"—one of her most famous works—which she recited at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. Angelou received several honors throughout her career, including two NAACP Image Awards in the outstanding literary work (nonfiction) category, in 2005 and 2009. She died on May 28, 2014.

Multi-talented barely seems to cover the depth and breadth of Maya Angelou's accomplishments. She was an author, actress, screenwriter, dancer and poet. Born Marguerite Annie Johnson, Angelou had a difficult childhood. Her parents split up when she was very young, and she and her older brother, Bailey, were sent to live with their father's mother, Anne Henderson, in Stamps, Arkansas.

As an African American, Angelou experienced firsthand racial prejudices and discrimination in Arkansas. She also suffered at the hands of a family associate around the age of 7: During a visit with her mother, Angelou was raped by her mother's boyfriend. Then, as vengeance for the sexual assault, Angelou's uncles killed the boyfriend. So traumatized by the experience, Angelou stopped talking. She returned to Arkansas and spent years as a virtual mute.

In the mid-1950s, Angelou's career as a performer began to take off. She landed a role in a touring production of *Porgy and Bess*, later appearing in the off-Broadway production *Calypso Heat Wave* (1957) and releasing her first album, *Miss Calypso* (1957). A member of the Harlem Writers Guild and a civil rights activist, Angelou organized and starred in the musical revue *Cabaret for Freedom* as a benefit for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, also serving as the SCLC's northern coordinator. Angelou wrote several autobiographies throughout her career, including *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes* (1986) and *A Song Flung Up to Heaven* (2002), but 1969's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* continues to be regarded as her most popular autobiographical work. She also published several collections of poetry, including *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die* (1971), which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.



# Dorothy Height

Born on March 24, 1912, in Richmond, Virginia, African-American activist Dorothy Height spent her life fighting for civil rights and women's rights. The daughter of a building contractor and a nurse, Height moved with her family to Rankin, Pennsylvania, in her youth. There, she attended racially integrated school Height had applied to and been accepted to Barnard College in New York, but as the start of school neared, the college changed its mind about her admittance, telling Height that they had already met their quota for black students.

Undeterred, she applied to New York University, where she would earn two degrees: a bachelor's degree in education in 1930 and a master's degree in psychology in 1932.

After working for a time as a social worker, Height joined the staff of the Harlem YWCA in 1937. She had a life-changing encounter not long after starting work there. Height met educator and founder of the National Council of Negro Women Mary McLeod Bethune when Bethune and U.S. first lady Eleanor Roosevelt came to visit her facility. Height soon volunteered with the NCNW and became close to McLeod

Born 3-24-1912 Died 4-20-2010



# Biddy Mason

Bridget "Biddy" Mason, born a slave in Mississippi in 1818, achieved financial success that enabled her to support her extended family for generations despite the fact that she was illiterate. In a landmark case she sued her master for their freedom, saved her earnings, invested in real estate, and became a well-known philanthropist in Los Angeles, California. Although born in Mississippi, Mason was owned by slaveholders in Georgia and South Carolina before she was returned to Mississippi. Her last owner, Robert Marion Smith, a Mississippi Mormon convert, followed the call of church leaders to settle in the West. Mason and her children joined other slaves on Smith's religious pilgrimage to establish a new Mormon community in what would become Salt Lake City, Utah. At the time Utah was still part of Mexico.

In 1848 30-year-old Mason walked 1,700 miles behind a 300-wagon caravan that eventually arrived in the Holladay-Cottonwood area of the Salt Lake Valley. Along the route west Mason's responsibilities included setting up and breaking camp, cooking the meals, herding the cattle, and serving as a midwife as well as taking care of her three young daughters aged ten, four, and an infant.

In 1851 Smith and his family and slaves set out in a 150-wagon caravan for San Bernardino, California to establish yet another Mormon community. Ignoring Brigham Young's warning that slavery was illegal in California, Smith brought Mason and other enslaved people to the new community. Along the trek Mason met Charles H. and Elizabeth Flake Rowan, free blacks, who urged her to legally contest her slave status once she reached California, a free state. Mason received additional encouragement by free black friends whom she met in California, Robert and Minnie Owens.

In December 1855 Robert Smith, fearing losing his slaves, decided to move with them to [Texas](#), a slave state. The Owens family had a vested interest in the Mason family as one of their sons was romantically involved with Mason's 17-year-old daughter. When Robert Owens told the Los Angeles County Sheriff that slaves were being illegally held, he gathered a posse which including Owens and his sons, other cowboys and vaqueros from the Owens ranch. The posse apprehended Smith's wagon train in Cajon Pass, California en route to Texas and prevented him from leaving the state.

After spending five years enslaved in a "free" state Bridget Mason challenged Robert Smith for her freedom. On January 19, 1856 she petitioned the court for freedom for herself and her extended family of 13 women and children. Los Angeles District Judge Benjamin Hayes took three days before handing down his ruling in favor Mason and her extended family, citing California's 1850 constitution which prohibited slavery.

Mason and her family moved to Los Angeles where her daughter married the son of Robert and Minnie Owens. Mason worked as midwife and nurse, saved her money and purchased land in the heart of what is now downtown Los Angeles. Mason also organized [First A.M.E. Church](#), the oldest African American church in the city. She educated her children and with her wealth became a philanthropist to the entire Los Angeles community. Bridget "Biddy" Mason died in Los Angeles in 1891.

# Rahkua

Rahkua is an American singer/songwriter, actress, and model living in Los Angeles, CA. The Mississippi native got her start performing in festivals and community events with her family and in performance arts schools since the age of 3. Since then she has gone on to graduate from New York University with a BFA in theatre, release debut album, "Love, Loss, Lies", on independent music label RedSkyFly Music, and tour all over the country and abroad performing with such artists as CeeLo Green, Kellita Smith, Travis Porter, and Sweet Honey in the Rock member Carol Maillard. Rahkua is preparing to expand her international audience this summer as she journeys to Accra, Ghana in Africa





# VASSIE WRIGHT

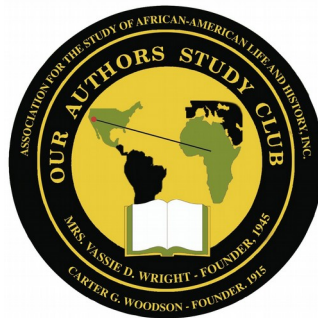
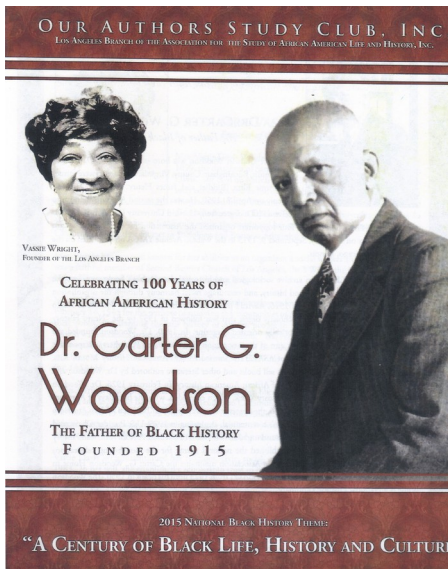
Mrs. Vassie Davis Wright was born in Paola , Kansas on December 6, 1899 . She was the daughter of Samuel William Davis and Lula Ann (Pertilla) Davis She died on March 20, 1983 in Los Angeles, California Her education was in the public schools of Denver

She graduated from Western University in Kansas City, Kansas and did graduate work in teaching at the University of Kansas . After arriving in California, she attended the University of Southern California Extension and completed courses in Sociology and Business Administration.

Mrs. Wright became well known for her abilities as an organizer, social and civic worker On February 14, 1945 Mrs VASSIE Davis Wright and a group of united States POSTAL WORKERS FORMED Our Authors Study Club, inc. OASC in Los Angeles California. In June 1945, OASC received a charter from Dr.Carter G. Woodson, which made it the LOS Angeles Branch of ASALH. There are now more than 46 branches nationwide. OASC became the official sponsor of Black History programs when the first Los Angeles citywide celebration for what was the first Los Angeles City mayor to proclaim Negro History Week began in 1949. I 1950, Mayor Fletcher Brown was the first Los Angeles Mayor to proclaim Negro History Week and ask all citizens to join OASC in the celebration.

In addition to the month long celebration during February, OASC awards scholarships to high school and college students; presents author programs and maintains a speakers bureau with qualified speakers available to address groups and school classes on African American life and history,

Mrs. Wright also helped to establish lending Negro History libraries in the YMCA, YWCA and at the Second Baptist Church Henderson Community Center. Other notable achievements include the first citywide celebration of Negro History Week in Los Angeles and initiating a Black History curriculum in the Los Angeles Unified School District Adult Schools. Mrs. Wright was a real estate broker; community activist; a Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Soror; a very active member of Second Baptist Church ; and, an organizing member of many community organizations. Mrs. Wright left an endowed fund to award fellowships to Ph.D. candidates doing research on African American life, literature, history and/or culture.



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# Angela Davis

Angela Davis was born on January 26, 1944, in Birmingham, Alabama. Her both parents were college graduates and worked as school teachers. Her brother, named Ben Davis, played for the Cleveland Browns and Detroit Lions in the 60s and 70s. Young Angela chose to attend a small private school known as the 'Little Red School House' in Greenwich Village in New York City. There she got involved in studies of socialism and communism and befriended the children of the leaders of the Communist Party, including her lifelong friend, Bettina Aptheker.

Angela Davis was awarded a full scholarship to Brandeis University in Massachusetts, where she met German-American philosopher Herbert Marcuse, later becoming his student at UCSD. Together with Herbert Marcuse she participated in a political rally during the Cuban Missile Crisis. At that time she studied Karl Marx, Albert Camus, and Jean-Paul Sartre, and spent summer in Paris and Helsinki, where she participated in the World Festival of Youth and Students. There Davis met with the Cuban students and became a supporter of Fidel Castro and Cuba. Then she continued her studies at the University of Frankfurt, Germany for 2 years, from where she graduated in 1965.

Davis returned to East Germany for her Ph. D. in philosophy from Humboldt University in East Berlin. Back in California she worked as a lecturer at UCLA during the 60s. At that time Davis was a radical feminist and a member of the Communist Party USA and was also associated with the Black Panther Party. She was fired from University of California in 1969, in a controversial decision by the Board, pushed by then Governor Ronald Reagan. She was later rehired to her job.

In 1970, Angela Davis appeared on the FBI's Most Wanted List. She was able to evade the police for 2 months before being arrested. She spent 18 months in the Women's Detention Center in New York awaiting the trial. In 1972 John Lennon and Yoko Ono supported her with their song "Angela" and Rolling Stones recorded their song "Sweet Black Angel" advocating her release. She was tried and acquitted of all charges.

During the Cold War she was hosted by the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. Her name and image were abused by the Soviet propaganda; she was taken to schools, factories, collective farms, where she was shown as a victim of "capitalism" to poor Russian victims of socialism. Angela Davis ran for Vice President of the United States as a candidate from the Communist Party USA in 1980 and 1984 along with the Communist Party leader Gus Hall.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, a survivor of the Stalin's Gulag prisons, commented: "Angela Davis was set free, as you know. Although she didn't have too difficult a time in this country's jails, she came to recuperate in Soviet resorts. Some Soviet dissidents, but more important, a group of Czech dissidents, addressed an appeal to her: "Comrade Davis, you were in prison. You know how unpleasant it is to sit in prison, especially when you consider yourself innocent. You have such great authority now. Could you help our Czech prisoners? Could you stand up for those people in Czechoslovakia who are being persecuted by the state?" Angela Davis answered: "They deserve what they get. Let them remain in prison. That is the face of Communism. That is the heart of Communism for you." Angela Davis opposed the 1995 Million Men March because, in her view it promoted male chauvinism.

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# Bessie Coleman

Bessie Coleman, the first African American female pilot, grew up in a cruel world of poverty and discrimination. The year after her birth in Atlanta, Texas, an African American man was tortured and then burned to death in nearby Paris for allegedly raping a five-year-old girl.

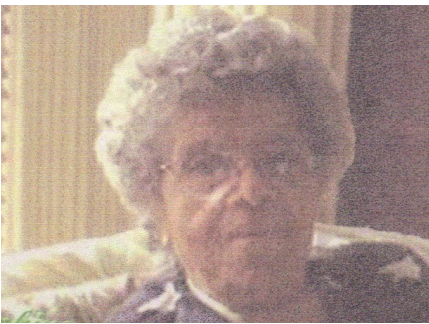
The incident was not unusual; lynchings were endemic throughout the South. African Americans were essentially barred from voting by literacy tests. They couldn't ride in railway cars with white people, or use a wide range of public facilities set aside for whites. When young Bessie first went to school at the age of six, it was to a one-room wooden shack, a four-mile walk from her home. Often there wasn't paper to write on or pencils to write with.

Born 1-26-1892 Died 4-30-1926

When Coleman turned 23 she headed to Chicago to live with two of her older brothers, hoping to make something of herself. But the Windy City offered little more to an African American woman than did Texas. When Coleman decided she wanted to learn to fly, the double stigma of her race and gender meant that she would have to travel to France to realize her dreams. When Coleman turned 23 she headed to Chicago to live with two of her older brothers, hoping to make something of herself. But the Windy City offered little more to an African American woman than did Texas. When Coleman decided she wanted to learn to fly, the double stigma of her race and gender meant that she would have to travel to France to realize her dreams.

It was soldiers returning from World War I with wild tales of flying exploits who first interested Coleman in aviation. She was also spurred on by her brother, who taunted her with claims that French women were superior to African American women because they could fly. In fact, very few American women of any race had pilot's licenses in 1918. Those who did were predominantly white and wealthy. Every flying school that Coleman approached refused to admit her because she was both black and a woman. On the advice of Robert Abbott, the owner of the "Chicago Defender" and one of the first African American millionaires, Coleman decided to learn to fly in France.

Coleman has not been forgotten in the decades since her death. For a number of years starting in 1931, black pilots from Chicago instituted an annual fly over of her grave. In 1977 a group of African American women pilots established the Bessie Coleman Aviators Club. And in 1992 a Chicago City council resolution requested that the U.S. Postal Service issue a Bessie Coleman stamp. The resolution noted that "Bessie Coleman continues to inspire untold thousands even millions of young persons with her sense of adventure, her positive attitude, and her determination to succeed."



# Josephine Blodgett Smith

Words from the Granddaughter,

I have been very much impressed by the fact my Grandfather was sold away from his mother for learning to read; in other words, for getting educated. Its important for young people to understand that education will enable them to get a better understanding of life and get a better understanding of what real progress is.

I want to more people become entrepreneurs because that will lead to a financial independence, it's just in kind in my blood, partly because of the colonel. I didn't know him. He died before I was born. He was a remarkable man. The concept of anybody being sold because they were learning to read is certainly we don't to happen to anybody. We want people to learn to read and to become literate and to use their knowledge in an entrepreneurial way that will lead to financial independence – Ms Josephine Blodgett Smith

June 25, 1914 - July 18, 2010

A gifted educator, community activist, and Neuro-Linguistic Programmer passed away at the age of 96. She is survived by two children, Georgette Smith Maynard and George G. Smith, Jr., seven grandchildren and one great grandson. She will be remembered by the many who loved her. She was a graduate of [UCLA](#), a retired LAUSD teacher, and a charter member of the Los Angeles Chapter of Links, Inc for which she served over 60 years -



# Ella Baker

Ella Jo Baker was born in [Norfolk, Virginia](#), and raised by Georgiana and Blake Baker, her parents. When she was seven, her family moved to her mother's hometown of [Littleton](#) in rural [North Carolina](#). As a girl, Baker listened to her grandmother tell stories about [slave revolts](#). Baker's grandmother had been enslaved and was whipped for refusing to marry a man chosen for her by the slave master.<sup>[</sup>

Baker attended [Shaw University](#) in [Raleigh, North Carolina](#), graduating as class [valedictorian](#) in 1927 at the age of 24. As a student she challenged school policies that she thought were unfair. After graduating, she moved to [New York City](#).<sup>during 1929-1930</sup> she was an editorial staff member of the *American West Indian News*, going on to take the position of editorial assistant at the *Negro National News*. In 1930 [George Schuyler](#), then a black journalist and [anarchist](#) (and later an arch-conservative), founded the [Young Negroes' Cooperative League](#) (YNCL), which sought to develop black economic power through collective planning. Having befriended Schuyler, Baker joined in 1931 and soon became the group's national director.

She also worked for the Worker's Education Project of the [Works Progress Administration](#), where she taught courses in consumer education, labour history and African history. Baker immersed herself in the cultural and political milieu of [Harlem](#) in the 1930s. She protested [Italy's invasion of Ethiopia](#) and supported the campaign to free the [Scottsboro defendants](#) in Alabama, a group of young black men accused of raping two white women. She also founded the Negro History Club at the Harlem Library and regularly attended lectures and meetings at the YWCA. During this time, she lived with and married her college sweetheart, T. J. (Bob) Roberts. Her life in Harlem was very exciting, and she befriended the future scholar and activist [John Henrik Clarke](#) and the future writer and civil rights lawyer [Pauli Murray](#), and many others. The [Harlem Renaissance](#) influenced Baker in her thoughts and teachings. She advocated for widespread, local action as a means of change. Her emphasis on a grass roots approach to the struggle for equal rights influenced the success of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

in 1938 she began her long association with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people (NAACP). Baker was hired in December 1940 as a secretary. She was named director of branches in 1943, making her the highest ranking woman in the organization. She was an outspoken woman with a strong belief in egalitarian ideals. She pushed the organization to decentralize its leadership structure and to aid its membership in more activist campaigns on the local level. Baker believed that the strength of an organization grew from the bottom up and not the top down. Baker despised elitism and placed her confidence in many rather than the few elitists. She recognized that the bedrock of any social change organization is not the eloquence or credentialed, but rather, it lies in the commitment and hard work of the rank and file membership. She especially stressed the importance of young people and women in the organization.

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (1960–1966, Southern Conference Education Fund (1962–1967) From 1962 to 1967, Baker worked on the staff of the Southern Conference Education Fund. *The Story of Ella Baker*



# Nu Daii

These 5 talented young men started off 5 years ago in Artist Development with Wisdom Production & Collabo Entertainment, not only to become a dynamic singing group but also to become great leaders in the community, with their message being keep God first, education second and success will follow. Nu Daii has performed on stage, opening up for the Legendary Spinners and Lakeside. In the younger sector Nu Daii has opened up for "Jacob Latimore" (Black Nativity),

Teen sensation "Mindless Behavior" (Where is Mrs. Right)(Mygirl, My girl she loves me), and a host if many more artists. Just recently Nu Daii performed in front of a packed house of fans with Trevor Jackson, Jacob Latimore, Phenix Rose, Dylan, Clay Dub and many others for the "Cool To Be Smart" concert. Nu Daii has served their community well by performing at the Long Beach Jazz Festival, Taste of Soul, National Lights Out, The Long Beach Unity Festival, Watts Summer Festival, just to name a few. Nu Daii supports Non-Profit Organizations such as "Ambassador Children of Absolutes" March of Dimes, The American Cancer Society, and along with their management team, Wisdom Production & Collabo Entertainment, they've been long time supporters of The Allensworth Production. Nu Daii Minister in various churches throughout the community such as Prayer Assembly, West Angeles C.O.G.I.C. and The Power of Love church under the Pastoral direction of Bishop.



# Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman was born to enslaved parents in Dorchester County, Maryland, and originally named Araminta Harriet Ross. Her mother, Harriet "Rit" Green, was owned by Mary Pattison Brodess. Her father, Ben Ross, was owned by Anthony Thompson, who eventually married Mary Brodess. Araminta, or "Minty," was one of nine children born to Rit and Ben between 1808 and 1832. While the year of Araminta's birth is unknown, it probably occurred between 1820 and 1825.

Minty's early life was full of hardship. Mary Brodess' son Edward sold three of her sisters to distant plantations, severing the family. When a trader from Georgia approached Brodess about buying Rit's youngest son, Moses, Rit s

By the time Harriet reached adulthood, around half of the African-American people on the eastern shore of Maryland were free. It was not unusual for a family to include both free and enslaved people, as did Tubman's immediate family. In 1844, Harriet married a free black man named John Tubman. Little is known about John Tubman or his marriage to Harriet. Any children they might have had would have been considered enslaved, since the mother's status dictated that of any offspring. Araminta changed her name to Harriet around the time of her marriage, possibly to honor her mother.

Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in 1849, fleeing to Philadelphia. Tubman decided to escape following a bout of illness and the death of her owner in 1849. Tubman made use of the network known as the Underground Railroad to travel nearly 90 miles to Philadelphia. She crossed into the free state of Pennsylvania with a feeling of relief and awe, and recalled later: "When I found I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything; the sun came like gold through the trees, and over the fields, and I felt like I was in Heaven."

In December 1851, Tubman guided a group of 11 fugitives northward. There is evidence to suggest that the party stopped at the home of abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass.

In April 1858, Tubman was introduced to the abolitionist John Brown, who advocated the use of violence to disrupt and destroy the institution of slavery. Tubman shared Brown's goals and at least tolerated his methods. Tubman claimed to have had a prophetic vision of Brown before they met. When Brown began recruiting supporters for an attack on slaveholders at Harper's Ferry, he turned to "General Tubman" for help. After Brown's subsequent execution, Tubman praised him as a martyr.



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# Ida B Wells

Ida B. Wells was born into slavery in Holly Springs, Mississippi, just months prior to emancipation in 1862. Her parents died of yellow fever when she was 14, and Wells, though minimally educated, began teaching to support her seven younger sisters and brothers. She somehow managed to keep her family together, graduate from Rust College, and secure a teaching position in Memphis in 1888.

When she was 22, Wells defied a conductor's order in Tennessee to move to a segregated railroad car and was forcibly removed. She won a lawsuit (later overturned) against the railroad and, from that point on, worked consistently to overcome injustices to people of color and to women. In 1889 she became co-owner of a Memphis newspaper, the *Free Speech and Headlight*. Her editorials protesting the lynching of three black friends led to a boycott of white businesses, the destruction of her newspaper office, and threats against her life. Undeterred, she carried her anti-lynching crusade to Chicago and published *Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases*, which documented racial lynching in America.

In 1895, when she married Ferdinand L. Barnett, attorney and owner of the *Conservator*, Chicago's first black newspaper, she hyphenated her name, making it Wells-Barnett. Though married and the eventual mother of four children, Wells-Barnett continued to write and organize. She was a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), marched in the parade for universal suffrage in Washington, D.C. (1913), and established the Negro Fellowship League for black men and the first kindergarten for black children in Chicago.

She did not succeed in her crusade to get Congress to pass anti-lynching laws during her lifetime, but her efforts as a writer and activist dedicated to social change and justice established her as one of the most forceful and remarkable women of her time. Ida B. Wells died in Chicago. She once said: "One had better die fighting against injustice than die like a dog or a rat in a trap."



# Mary Pleasant

Mary Ellen Pleasant was born on Aug. 19, 1814 in Virginia and spent her early years in Nantucket. She worked as a bond servant to the Hussey family, an abolitionist family. She later married James Smith, a wealthy former plantation owner and an abolitionist. Mary Ellen and James worked on the Underground Railroad. After Smith's death four years later, Mary Ellen continued her work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

Mary Ellen married John James Pleasant around 1848. To avoid trouble with slavers for their abolitionist work, the couple moved to San Francisco in April 1852. Mrs. Pleasant established several restaurants for California miners, the first named the Case and Heiser. With the help of clerk Thomas Bell, Mrs. Pleasant amassed a fortune by 1875 through her investments and various businesses by 1875. She also helped to establish the Bank of California.

Pleasant earned her title as the "Mother" of California's early civil rights movement, establishing the local Underground Railroad. She financially supported John Brown from 1857 to 1859. In the 1860s and 1870s, Mrs. Pleasant brought several civil rights lawsuits in California, especially against the trolley companies, most of which she won.

During the 1880s, a smear campaign by the widow of Thomas Bell damaged Mrs. Pleasant's reputation. Local newspapers began to taunt her with the pejorative title "mammy," which she reportedly hated. She never recovered her prestige from this campaign. Mary Ellen Pleasant died on Jan. 4, 1904. - See more at:

[#sthash.bgKVfupl.dpuf](http://www.blackpast.org/aaw/pleasant-mary-ellen-1814-1904)



# Fannie Lou Hamer

October 6, 1917 – March 14, 1977

Fannie Lou Hamer was an American voting rights activist and civil rights leader. She was instrumental in organizing Mississippi Freedom Summer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and later...

**Fannie Lou Hamer** (born **Fannie Lou** Townsend ; October 6, 1917 – March 14, 1977) was an American voting rights activist, civil rights leader, and philanthropist. Fannie Lou Hamer was born on October 6, 1917, in Montgomery County, Mississippi.

In 1962, she met civil rights activists who encouraged blacks to register to vote, and soon became active in helping. Hamer also worked for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which fought racial segregation and injustice in the South. In 1964, she helped found the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Hamer died in 1977.

Civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer was born Fannie Lou Townsend on October 6, 1917, in Montgomery County, Mississippi. She was the youngest of 20 children. Her parents were sharecroppers in the Mississippi Delta area. Hamer began working the fields when she was only 6 years old.

Around the age of 12, Hamer dropped out of school in order to work full-time and help out her family. She continued to be a share cropper after her 1944 marriage to Perry "Pap" Hamer. The couple worked on a cotton plantation near Ruleville, Mississippi. They were unable to have children after Hamer had a surgery to remove a tumor. During the operation, her surgeon gave Hamer a hysterectomy without her consent.

In the summer of 1962, Hamer made a life-changing decision to attend a protest meeting. She met civil rights activists there who were there to encourage African Americans to register to vote. Hamer was one of a small group of African Americans in her area who decided to register themselves. On August 31, 1962, she traveled with 17 others to the county courthouse in Indianola to accomplish this goal. They encountered opposition from local and state law enforcement along the way.

Such bravery came at a high price for Hamer. She was fired from her job and driven from the plantation she had called home for nearly two decades—just for registering to vote. But these actions only solidified Hamer's resolve to help other African Americans get the right to vote. According to *The New York Times*, she said "They kicked me off the plantation, they set me free. It's the best thing that could happen. Now I can work for my people."

Hamer dedicated her life to the fight for civil rights, working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. This organization was comprised mostly of African-American students who engaged in acts of civil disobedience to fight racial segregation and injustice in the South. These acts often were met with violent responses by angry whites. During the course of her activist career, Hamer was threatened, arrested, beaten, and shot at. She was severely injured in 1963 in a Winona, Mississippi jail. She and two other activists were taken in by police after attending a training workshop. Hamer was beaten so badly that she suffered permanent kidney damage.

In 1964, Hamer helped found the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which was established in opposition to her state's all-white delegation to that year's Democratic convention. She brought the civil rights struggle in Mississippi



# RUTH KIMBROUGH

An R&B Singer, songwriter, model, dancer and actress. She's been in many product shows and commercials. She started singing at age 3, joined her church choir at age nine.

She sang for The Long Beach Midnight Basketball team, LB Health Department Red ribbon day, LB Unity Festival, LB Aquarium of the Pacific, LB YMCA ribbon cutting, LB NAACP featuring Jazz singer Barbara Morrison. The Clippers game accompanied by Stevie Wonder's son and five other high school students, performed at Tedwatkins and Leimert Park Juneteenth Celebrations, plus other entertainment companies and venues.

She's the granddaughter of the legendary accordionist Mr. Wilfred Peters of the Boom and Shine Band of Belize. She is a singer in the Tropical Sensation Band and is currently a college student studying liberal arts to be a teacher, and currently working as a teacher's aide



# Rosa Parks

Civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat to a white passenger, spurring the Montgomery boycott and other efforts to end segregation.

Civil rights activist Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama. Her refusal to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus spurred a city-wide boycott. The city of Montgomery had no choice but to lift the law requiring segregation on public buses. Rosa Parks received many accolades during her lifetime, including the NAACP's highest award.

Civil Rights Pioneer

Famed civil rights activist Rosa Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama. Her refusal to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a public bus Montgomery, Alabama, spurred on a citywide boycott and helped launch nationwide efforts to end segregation of public facilities.

## Early Life and Education

Rosa Parks's childhood brought her early experiences with racial discrimination and activism for racial equality. After her parents separated, Rosa's mother moved the family to Pine Level, Alabama to live with her parents, Rose and Sylvester Edwards—both former slaves and strong advocates for racial equality; the family lived on the Edwards' farm, where Rosa would spend her youth. In one experience, Rosa's grandfather stood in front of their house with a shotgun while Ku Klux Klan members marched down the street.

## Racial Discrimination

Although she had become a symbol of the Civil Rights Movement, Rosa Parks suffered hardship in the months following her arrest in Montgomery and the subsequent boycott. She lost her department store job and her husband was fired after his boss forbade him to talk about his wife or their legal case. Unable to find work, they eventually left Montgomery; the couple, along with Rosa's mother, moved to Detroit, Michigan. There, Rosa made a new life for herself, working as a secretary and receptionist in U.S. Representative John Conyer's congressional office. She also served on the board of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

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# Baby Bee

Pride in the achievement of a local talent and excitement from knowing you're going to get the "real thing" from a musician's musician. Green, who goes by the stage name Baby Bee, is a musician's musician with skills as a drummer, vocalist and song writer much in demand. For more than three decades Baby Bee's versatility has earned her a part in the Valley's well established and dynamic blues scene; a blues scene as strong as any in the United States. She's worked as a backing musician, a side player and front woman covering all the bases with a Who's Who of premier local, regional and national artists.

Born in Stuttgart, Germany Baby Bee grew up traveling the world with her family as an Army brat, settling in the Valley in the 1960s. Her exposure to a wide array of music helped draw her to a love of rhythm and she began playing drums in various bands. Her first professional gig was backing R&B entertainer Warren "Dr. Feelgood Milton" as a drummer in his show band.

Baby Bee joined the all-female "Blues Divas" and toured regionally; performing at countless blues festivals up and down California including the Monterey Blues Festival three-years running. She's worked closely with former John Lee Hooker guitarist Ron Thompson as both drummer and vocalist. In addition to Thompson and Milton, Baby Bee's list of collaborators include: Ritchie Blue, Luck Lopez, Johnny Tucker and Aaron Tucker.

Baby Bee's first CD "Back It Up and Spank It" (available on-line) has been receiving positive feedback from listeners with good rotation on Valley blues shows like KFSR's Blues Buffett. The 10-song release showcases Bee's song writing skills as well as her interpretive abilities with soulful covers of Otis Redding, Ben E. King and Elmore James. Of particular interest has been Bee's rendering of the T-bone Walker classic "Stormy Monday" with comparisons to the iconic blues vocals of Big Mama Thornton.

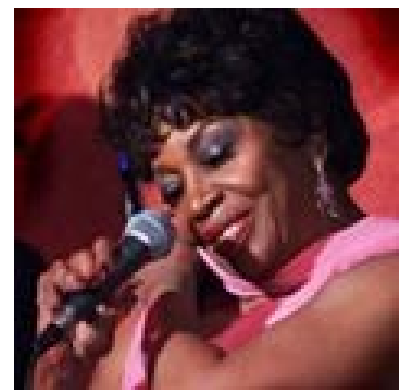
Baby Bee's popularity as a musician springs in part from her willingness to work with others. She hosted a long running (six-years) blues jam at one of the funkier, hole in the wall blues joints anywhere, Fresno's Zapps Park, a gone but not forgotten favorite venue known all along the West Coast. Bee's also organized, coordinated and hosted several events throughout the Valley such as the historic community of Allensworth's Scat to Rap Fest in 2011 and the Family & Friends Fest in 2012. For several years she's helped raise money for the Diamond Learning Center in Fresno and in May of 2012 she put together Baby Bee-n-Stingin Sweet for Fresno's Roots Festival. Bee's playing is sanctified most Sunday's at Oak Hills Church in Clovis. Currently Bee is fronting Baby Bee & Good Fellas and spending time in the studio. Upcoming events include the June 21st Father's Day Blues Festival in Fresno and the July 11th Allensworth California Celebration honoring Black Women.

# Ann Mack

From childhood this melodic nightale began her career in late 1950's. She was influenced by Billie Holiday and her melodic tone resembles that of Sara Vaughn. Ann Mack has performed with may legends and greats such as Ray Brown, Teddy Edwards, Clara Bryant, Bobby Bryant and many others.

Ann Mack professional performances includes the Jazz at Philharmonic, Pips Nightclub, H.o.m.e in Beverly Hills, and many other venues. She was recently awarded the Living Legend Blues Award and has been given several other music awards.

Ann Mack 's personal dream as quoted by her is to "continue keeping and promoting Jazz as a cultural heritage and legacy for generations to come.





# Barbara Morrison

Born in [Ypsilanti, Michigan](#), and raised in [Romulus, Michigan](#), Barbara Morrison recorded her first appearance for radio in [Detroit](#) at the age of 10. She moved to [Los Angeles](#) in 1973, at the age of 23.[1] Well known in the [Los Angeles](#) area for her duo and trio dates Ms. Morrison also tours extensively, blazing a trail as a Jazz and Blues legend in her own right across the Continental [United States](#), Western [Europe](#) the [Far East](#) and "Down Under" , wowing audiences with her band. In 1986, touring with the Philip Morris Superband, a 14 city one month tour of Canada, Australia, Japan and the Philippines, starting on September 3, 1986, Barbara did vocal honors with jazz organist, Jimmy Smith, backed by Saxophonist, James Moody, Guitarist, Kenny Burrell, t Trumpeter, Jon Faddis with Grady Tate on drums

Barbara completed a 33-city tour in the US, co-headlining in an all-star tribute to composer [Harold Arlen](#) (most recognizable for his genius behind the music for the classic film, [The Wizard of Oz](#)). Over the years she has performed with a virtual "who's who" of the [Jazz](#) and the [Blues](#) worlds. That list includes legends such as [Gerald Wilson](#), [Dizzy Gillespie](#), [Ray Charles](#), [James Moody](#), [Ron Carter](#), [Etta James](#), [Esther Phillips](#), [David T. Walker](#), [Jimmy Smith](#), [Johnny Otis](#), [Dr. John](#), [Kenny Burrell](#), [Terence Blanchard](#), [Joe Sample](#), [Cedar Walton](#), [Nancy Wilson](#), [Joe Williams](#), [Tony Bennett](#), and [Keb' Mo](#). Ms. Morrison has also guest-starred with the [Count Basie Orchestra](#), the [Clayton-Hamilton Orchestra](#) and [Doc Severinsen's Big Band](#). In 1995, Barbara Morrison was on a televised Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, with Mel Torme, Diane Reeves, Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan, Tony Bennett, Dionne Warwick, and Lou Rawls, Barbara Morrison, Performance Arts Center supports the Harmony Project. The children practice during the week after school. [Pop](#). Her melodic voice, with its three-and-a-half-octave range, is known worldwide, as are her rich, unique, soulful and highly spirited interpretations of both, familiar Jazz and Blues classics and original contemporary tunes.

"I Wanna Be Loved" written by Barbara Morrison and Michael Cormier is a musical theatre production about the life and times of Dinah Washington, Queens of the Blues, In addition to her gigs with other jazz and blues groups and legends, Barbara Morrison also performs at the more renown blues and [jazz festivals](#) around the world. Her appearances include [Montreux](#), [Nice](#), [Pori](#), [Carnegie Hall](#), [North Sea](#), [Darling Harbour](#), [Sydney Opera House](#), [Australia](#), [Monterey](#), [Long Beach](#), as well as salutes to [Dizzy Gillespie](#) and her tribute to [Benny Golson](#).

More recently beginning in 2011, Barbara Morrison has been performing with Jack Hale, a popular So. Cal master guitarist/ arranger/ band leader of cool and hot vintage jazz and swing styles from the 1920s through 1950s.



# Shri Natha Devi Permanda

Mataji has been residing in South Central Los Angeles for the last 30 years. She is dedicated to the manifestation of World Peace, teachings of oneness and compassion, universal wisdom, ancient ceremonies, and the Holy Scriptures. She teaches that violence is not the answer to resolve conflicts, we are brothers and sisters.

*Mataji is founder of Eagle Wings of Enlightenment Center –*

The Center works toward bringing about the harmony and balance within the community through prayers, ceremonies, healing, teaching the sacredness of life and human values, spiritual counseling, meditation, women's wisdom teachings, spiritual initiation, and being caretakers of Mother Earth. She has travelled worldwide speaking to the hearts of the people about the Mother Earth and how we can do our part to maintain the sacredness of life. She has received national and international awards and was recognized as an *Ambassador for Peace and Universal Peacemaker*.

"God's Love manifests the common thread that weaves all traditions together. This thread of

Love will never die, it is Supreme Love in action – as Embodiments of Love, we all have come to serve each other.

Divine Blessings!



# Bili Redd



2 time Grammy winner, 5 time Grammy nominated and Gospel Hall of Fame vocalist Bili Redd featuring The Richard Sherman Trio. This is a unique opportunity to hear in person an absolutely fabulous and highly acclaimed vocalist with a superbly seasoned band who has been performing all across the country for many years.

They have been in residency at The Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes in southern California for the past four years where they typically play to capacity. This vocalist along with the musicians in the band each share a performance credit list that reads like a who's who in the entertainment industry. Performing with artists such as; Chuck Berry, The Drifters , David Benoit, Engelbert Humperdinck, Nancy Wilson, Kurt Elling, Louis Bellson, Cedar Walton, Spencer Davis Band, John Klemmer, Cab Calloway to so many others.

Bili has performed across the globe with such notables as; Sarah Vaughn, The Carpenters, Minnie Riperton, Melissa Manchester, George Benson and Boz Scaggs to name a few and has been heard at hundreds of major venues throughout the world including Carnegie Hall and The White House .

As a California native , Bili had the fortune to grow up and around greatness . People like the great jazz drummer Billy Higgins ( Bili's uncle) , Cedar Walton and Dexter Gordon were commonplace at his home . Being brought up amongst this pedigree, so rich in jazz history , Bili Redd has been carrying the torch of jazz greatness for more than 50 years and is the reason why he is considered as " jazz royalty" throughout the musical community.

Just to sit and hear a chapter from his life's journey , whether it be about Muhammad Ali or Miles Davis is worth the price of admission . But , it's when you hear him sing about it that it takes hold. Think of Nat Cole , Billy Eckstine and Lou Rawls .... "Smooth and velvety like a finely aged port but with a hint of bourbon" .... he's the real deal . Quietly steeped within and influenced by the classic gentlemen of jazz/soul/gospel vocalists like Tony Bennett , Donny Hathaway , Bill Withers and Andrae Crouch.

Richard Sherman has been a tour de force for 40 years in the South Bay area of Southern California . Playing at every single venue known and has deserved the utmost respect as a leader, pianist and superb accompanist . He's known for playing a variety of styles , classical, swing , latin, ballad, blues , motown, soul and R&B. Richard has a reputation of being precisely what a venue needs musically. After hearing him only once , management will often tell him "you can never leave"! Richard brings out the best in people through his mild approachable manner and warm heart . That becomes obvious once you hear him play. It's here, deep within his passion for melody and harmony joined together in a heartfelt song ; that he alone has what it takes to compliment a singer like Bili Redd. "Body and Soul".



# Tyra Hughes

Eartha Kitt: UnAuthorized Confessions

takes the audience on an enlightening yet entertaining journey through the life and times of the LEGENDARY EARTHA KITT. From unsavory beginnings, to overcoming it all, only to be shunned by her country, Eartha Kitt was a quadruple threat. She conquered Films, Television, Stage and was a famed singer with an unmistakable signature growl. She was also a published author. She managed to cross all audiences, with each generation knowing and loving her for different pieces of her work.

Self Employed Actress, SAG –AFTRA , Divah Unlimited

Creating my own work as an artist, writing my own destiny by the grace of God. I know God is real, I've already seen too many miracles. It's too late to try to convince me otherwise!

Native New Orleanian with roots to Africa. Actress all my life, winning awards for performance since age 3 and still kicking butt.

Favorite Quotes

If you want something different, you must do something different!

FORTUNE FAVORS THE BRAVE!



# Pat Sligh

Aldene "Pat" Sligh is a jazz vocalist. She has performed in concerts, dinner clubs and nightclubs in Pittsburgh, PA, Chicago, IL, Los Angeles, CA and Hawaii, to name a few. Pat, as she is known to most of her friends and fellow thespians, is also an actress. She has appeared in the productions of; BEFORE IT HITS HOME, written by Cheryl West, as the comedic relief character of Auntie Maybelle, performed at the Coleman & Smith Artistic Company; NORTH ON SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE, starring the late, Michael Massengale, written by TuNook, Carla

Clark (director) and Larry Robinson, in the role of Sarah Vaughn, the nightclub drunk and patron. NORTH ON SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE won four (4) of nine (9) nominated 2004 NAACP Theatre Awards and has toured numerous venues in Northern and Southern California, including John Anson Ford Theatre.

Pat also played the roles of Billy Holiday and Sarah Vaughn in the hit play, WHEN DIVAS WERE DIVAS, written and directed by Sharon Graines and performed at the Playhouse Theatre Players venue in Los Angeles, CA; WATCHA PEEPIN AT (The Story of Jackie 'Moms' Mabley) written and produced by Theatre Perception Consortium and Dr. Derek Taylor, in the role of Pearl Bailey at the Stella Adler Theatre, HOWLIN BLUES AND DIRTY DOGS (The Life of Big Mama Thornton), starring Barbara Morrison, written by Theatre Perception Consortium, in the role of Big Mama's sister, mother and bartender. Played the role of Ruth Bowen in the hit stage play, I WANNA BE LOVED; the Dinah Washington Story, starring Barbara Morrison, written by Barbara Morrison in conjunction with Michael Cormier and directed by Keenan Zeno at the Barbara Morrison Performing Arts Center

Most recently Pat was cast in the character role of a 100 year old woman in the 2014 NAACP Award winning, SICK AND TIRED, (The Life of Civil Rights Activist, Fanny Lou Hamer) written and produced by Theatre Perception Consortium.

Pat recently wrote, produced and performed her first one woman show, "All About Love," at the renowned World Stage in Leimert Park, L.A., CA. Her next project will be a repeat performance of "Sick and Tired" at the Stella Adler Theatre of Hollywood.



# Sabine

Widely respected as an award winning classical pianist in the United States and Europe, and also respected greatly as a major jazz pianist from her work with The Scotty Barnhart Quintet at the San Jose Jazz Festival and other venues, Sabine is one of the most talented musicians in the world. Fans and critics alike are welcoming a new and powerful voice on jazz piano. Winner of classical competitions, such as IBLA Grand Prize in Italy, Liszt Los Angeles International Competition, MTNA Regional in Minneapolis, Concerto Competitions at the Boston Conservatory and University of Northern Iowa,

Sabine is self-taught in jazz. She immersed into this music nearly several years ago, learning from the records and musicians she performed with. Her performances include appearances with John B. Williams Quintet (H.O.M.E. and LACMA Museum Jazz Concert Series), Ron McCurdy Quartet (Langston Hughes Project), Michelle Coltrane/Shea Welsh Group, etc. Her recent release Keys To The City Of Lost Angels contains mostly original work. She leads her all female trio Sabine Trio/Hard Bop Chicks *Quotes:*

*"...Sabine is one of the greatest pianists I have ever heard in my life. She has a level of talent that puts her in the top 1 % of jazz pianists working today. It's a pleasure to work with her..."*  
Scotty Barnhart, Director, The Count Basie Orchestra

*"...Sabine has her own voice on the piano...Sabine has a harmonically advanced style, personal chord voicings of her own and a stimulating*



# Jody Jaress

## LAJazz Review

Great performances can't be ignored. They make you stop people from talking around you. That's what Jaress did on this night. Extremely patient (Shirley Horn-like), solid and thick vocals, trust in the band and just good old storytelling made her time on the mic a real pleasure. I'd like to hear this singer, live, as often as possible. Top-notch work here."

- LAJazz Review by **Jay Jackson**

Jody's continuing career in television advertisements include: Advair, DirecTV, Hewlett Packard, Secure Horizons, Time Warner, Iams Pet Food, The Home Depot, Ameriprise Financial, Bell South and many other nationals. Her diverse character voices can be heard on many Anime' and Manga television serials in the U.S. and internationally including the popular Rumiko Takahashi Anthology Series.

As a singer and dancer at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Jody opened for some of the great headliners of all time: Harry Belafonte, the Ink Spots, Louis Armstrong, Tommy Dorsey, Dinah Shore, and Melissa Manchester. She spent 5 years traveling with the USO and was awarded the prestigious USO pin for her dedication and years of service to our armed forces. "There isn't a better audience in the world than our boys!"

Currently, Jody performs her soulful jazz and blues renditions of songs from the American Song Book as the Headliner at many Southern California venues: Hollywood Studio Bar & Grill, Gardenia (the oldest cabaret club in the world), Catalina Jazz Bar & Grill, Jax, Cafe' 322, to name a few, and has a regular monthly gig at the NoHo Organic Farmers Market where she brings some of her musical friends to share and jam with their jazz, blues, pop and country music for all the fair attendees.



# Linda Morgan

"After losing Art Hillery (Another jazz artist she celebrated as a Living Legend) my focus shifted again. I was still finding the same thing. Artists who had no Internet presence and their names were still not trademarked. That's why I created the foundation. We want to make sure that happens. For awhile, I was buying domains like crazy for those artists out of my own pocket. I had over 200 at one point."

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Linda Morgan has a dream. She knows how important it is to leave a legacy for our children; for our society; for our world. She understands that you can't just march into the future without knowing about your past. After all, she has a child of her own and she's raising him to understand the importance of history and historic contributions. Linda Morgan is a music lover with an affinity for jazz. When you combine the two loves, history and music, you're bound to come up with an amazing idea. Her idea was to create a foundation that celebrated jazz icons and called them to the attention of youth. Thus was born the "Living Legends Jazz Series" followed by the Living Legend Jazz Foundation.

Today, Ms. Morgan is on a national crusade to bring full awareness of jazz back to the inner city with emphasis on inner city elementary and secondary schools and also to educate the community about their jazz icons. Sadly, young ears will rarely hear jazz on their local radio stations or in their homes and that's a shame since jazz has been deemed by the United States Congress as a National Treasure. If jazz can't get to them, Ms. Morgan is determined to bring young people to jazz.

Two years ago, in March of 2010, she put her concept into motion, celebrating jazz contributors Clora Bryant, (the first African-American female jazz trumpeter invited to perform in Russia and part of the legendary all girls jazz band) and Rose Gales, a local pianist who has consistently promoted jazz and jazz artists for the past six decades. That initial endeavor opened the door for thirty other honorees to be celebrated and gave her a platform to invite and enlighten the community and youth about living legends living right in their midst.





# Marguaret Love

**Marguaret Love** is a song stylist with a blend of pop, rock, country, blues & jazz. Born in **Denver, Colorado** Marguaret started singing in church and school at the age of 8 years old, receiving many awards.

She already knew at that time she wanted to become a singer, and at 17 was already singing in nightclubs in Denver. She was picked by a group that took her on the road for 5 years after which she ended up in **Indianapolis, Indiana**. There, she got a manager that booked the **Walker Theatre**, where she became the opening act for all the great headliners who performed there. After about 4 years, with terrific reviews and by now, hugely popular she went to Los Angeles, where she has been working top clubs and big shows with established groups, playing blues and jazz.

From Joe Liggins & the Honey drippers, to Percy Mayfield, Charles Brown, Bobby 'Blue' Bland, Tina Turner, and **Earth, Wind and Fire**, she's performed at places like the Los Angeles Juke Joint Blues Festival 2009, Spazio's, Jax's, **Barone's**, Bob Hope's USO Tour, **the Town House**, and toured internationally, including to Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Recently, Marguaret has been performing with Louis Thomas and His Pieces of 8 in and around Los Angeles. They have played some of the most well known jazz festivals in the country, including Sacramento, 'Sweet and Hot' jazz, Busch Gardens, Catalina Island, Chicago, and Eureka.

She's the winner of many awards, including Best Blues Singer of 2008. Now she's released her own CD, titled Ooh Wee, Just love.

2013 - Working at the LAX Crowne Plaza Hotel, Radisson LAX Hotel - Charleston, Santa Monica, Typhoon Restaurant, Santa Monica. Also The Sea Bird Lounge in Long Beach, The Skirball Center, Lucy's 51 in Toluca Lake, the Armenian Ararat Center, the L.A. International Festival of 2013.

Marguaret received awards from the State Assembly of California Legislature, & Project Hope Appreciation Certificate 2013. Los Angeles Times Newspaper (Long Beach) 2012-13 worked on a show with Freida Payne, Linda Hopkins, Blues Man, Lowell Fulsome - at the Ford Amphitheatre with Karen Hernandez, (Lalah Hathaway, Art Hillary, Keb'Mo, Johnny Vergo Big Band). Did an 8 week tour in South Texas. 2014 - Working at Radisson Hotel, LAX, Crown Plaza Hotel, LAX, Loews Hollywood, **Charleston**, Santa Monica, Stevie's Cafe, Encino, **The Golden Sails**, and **The Gate**, Westminster. **The Palm Springs Woman Jazz Festival**, The Jamboree Festival, **Los Angeles Music Award Festival**, San Dimas, CA Blues Festival, Mo-Jo Blues Festival, Jacksonville, Fl., 4 Week Texas Tour "Keep Blues Alive".

Marguaret received The Living Legend Award from Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles Living Legend from The Beverly Hills Hollywood NAACP. The County of Los Angeles, Commendation from Mark Ridley Thomas, Second District, and Outstanding Recognition to Jazz and Blues, from Herb J. Wesson, Jr., President of L.A. City Council, as well as the Living Legend Foundation Jazzabration



# Camille Lourde

It all began at the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts (ELSFA) in Boston, where she was steeped in the rich African American cultural performance traditions in theatre, voice and dance .....this is where her love affair with music and art began its romance As a young fine arts student, she was constantly entertaining political officials and philanthropists in such annual fundraising productions as **“Black Nativity”**, and **“Celebrate”**..

Summers were spent on stage with the Voices of Black Persuasion (ELSFA) at the **“Playhouse In the Park”**, and performances of Villagers (the children’s African dance troupe). Camille was a soloist with the **Black Nativity** and then went on to become a **Hal Jackson Talented Teen** for the state of Massachusetts.

While in New York, Camille appeared **off-Broadway** in **Ain’t Nobody’s BizNess If I Do** at the **Kaufman Theatre**, **off-off Broadway** at The Hudson Theatre in the **Negro Ensemble Company’s** production of “The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman”, **on Broadway** in **Dreamtime** at the **Ed Sullivan Theatre**. She has been directed by **Andre “The Wiz” de Shields** in **Lemuel**, and directed by Lonnie Berry in the **National Black Theatre’s** festival production of **Brer Rabbit**. In Los Angeles, under the direction of Adleane Hunter, Camille was a member of the **Black Women’s Blues** ensemble (as the **Dawn Lewis** swing) with **Vanessa Bell Calloway** (*original Broadway DreamGirls*), **Aloma Wright** (*Scrubs*) and **Wendy Racquel Robinson** (*Steve Harvey Show*) and **Black Resurrection** narrating opposite **James Avery** (*Uncle Phil, Fresh Prince of Bel Air*).

Ms. Lourde was a featured guest in **All of Us** starring **Boris Kodjoe** (*Soul Food*), and led the cast in **Missing the Main Ingredient** at the Hayworth Theatre. Camille appeared opposite **Desiree Coleman Jackson** (*Mama, I Wanna Sing*) as her Stepmother in **Sing Cinderella Sing!**

Camille sings well known classics that are sure crowd-pleasers ~ her fiery brand of rock & soul always reminisces sweet memories.



# Drea Courtney

Drea Courtney, known for her stylized renditions of jazz standards and torch songs, has sung throughout the Los Angeles and Santa Barbara areas at many clubs, restaurants, coffee houses, university campuses, major jazz festivals, and television appearances, earning recognition and acclaim at these venues and with audiences for her professionalism and presentation.

The impressive list of musicians and bands she has worked with include Kenny Dixon Trio, Dolo Coker Trio, Red Holloway, Art Hillery, Gerryck King Trio, Bill Skinner Big Band, Chuck Johnson Jazztet, Karen Hernandez Trio, Ricky Woodard, Larry Nash, Paul Kreibich, Richard Turner, Kevin O’Neal, Bob Remstein, Quentin Dennard, and the Chapter & Verse duo featuring Drea and guitarist Igor, who recorded the CD, *Never Let Me Go*.

Drea has performed at such notable venues as the Parisian Room, Catalina’s Bar & Grill, Vine Street Bar & Grill, Stage One, The World Stage, The Jazz Bakery, and Lunaria.

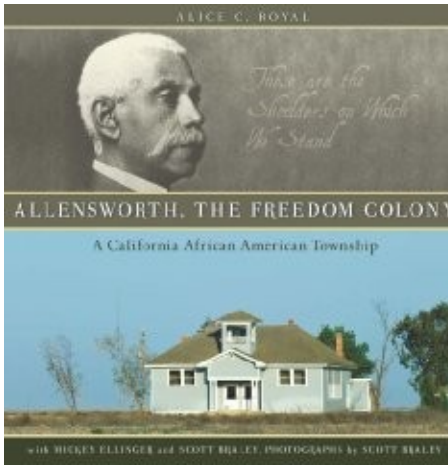
## Most Recent Appearances:

Don't Tell Mama, West Hollywood  
Days Inn Lounge, Glendale  
Holly Street Bar & Grill, Pasadena  
French 75 Bistro, Burbank  
Catalina Bar & Grill, Hollywood  
Hollywood Studio Bar & Grill, Hollywood  
The Vermont Restaurant, Hollywood  
Stevie's Creole Cafe, Encino

Sixth Street Bistro, San Pedro  
Alva's Performance Gallery, San Pedro  
Jax, Glendale  
Hotel Angeleno, Brentwood  
Calitalia Bar & Grill, Calabasas  
Splash Hotel, Redondo Beach  
Sheraton Gateway, Los Angeles International Airport

## Television Appearances:

Eye on LA, Channel 4, NBC



## ALLENSWORTH

ESTABLISHED ON AUGUST 3, 1908, THE TOWN OF ALLENSWORTH WAS THE VISION OF LT. COLONEL ALLEN ALLENSWORTH. BORN INTO SLAVERY IN 1842, ALLENSWORTH ESCAPED DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND SERVED IN THE UNION NAVY. IN 1886 HE BECAME CHAPLAIN OF THE 24TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, SERVING UNTIL 1906, RETIRING AS THE HIGHEST RANKING AFRICAN AMERICAN OFFICER IN THE U.S. ARMY.

COLONEL ALLENSWORTH, PROFESSOR WILLIAM PAYNE, DR. W.H. PECK, HARRY MITCHELL AND J.W. PALMER FORMED THE CALIFORNIA COLONY AND HOME PROMOTING ASSOCIATION AND PURCHASED LAND AT THIS LOCATION TO BUILD THE TOWN. ALLENSWORTH IS THE ONLY TOWN IN CALIFORNIA FOUNDED, BUILT, GOVERNED AND POPULATED BY AFRICAN AMERICANS.

**CALIFORNIA STATE HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 1047**



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Milner House & Barbershop

Hackett House

First Baptist Church

Blacksmith Area

Dodson House & Restaurant

Phillips House

Young Rd

Young Rd

0 500 Meters

Atchafalaya, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad

Del &

43

Bicker's General Store (1908-1912)

Overr's Agricultural Exhibit

Alledsworth Hotel

Hindsman and Co General Store

Park Entrance

Palmer Ave

Gruit Dr

A.T. & S.F. Stationmaster's Office (historic location)

RR Ticket Office

Singleton's General Store & Post Office

Hindsman House

Robinson House

Johnson's Bakery

Smith House

Stockett House

Dunbar Road

Blacksmith Area

Dodson House & Restaurant

Sojuma Ave

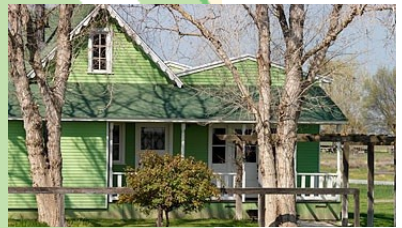
Phillips House

Colonel and Mrs. Allensworth's House

Ashby House, Dairy Barn & Milkhouse

Young Rd

Avenue 39

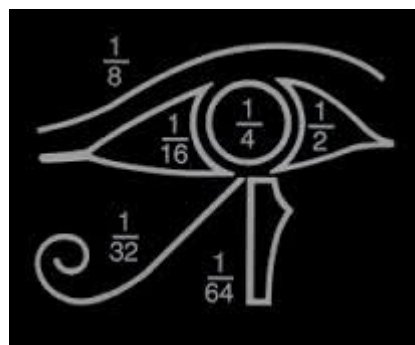




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	1/64	TOUCH



**Honoring the  
pioneering spirits  
of BLACK WOMEN**



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