



ncnw *Sisters-to-Sisters* Newsletter

san gabriel valley section

February 2024

San Gabriel Valley Section National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

P.O. Box 413 Walnut, CA 91788 Phone (909) 598-5539 Website www.sgvncnw.com



**2024 BLACK HISTORY
THEME:
AFRICAN AMERICANS
AND THE ARTS**



Maya Angelou

American memoirist, poet, and civil rights activist. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees.



From President Marie Paula Thermidor

Dear Esteemed Members and Beloved Supporters,

As we celebrate Black History Month, it's essential to recognize the invaluable contributions of African Americans to our world. This year, The Association for the Study of African American Life and History has dedicated the theme to "African Americans and the Arts," highlighting the vast and far-reaching contributions of African Americans to the world of arts, including visual and performing arts, music, literature, fashion, and more.

Our story is not merely a tale; it's an extraordinary tapestry woven with threads of resilience, courage, and groundbreaking contributions to the world. As we immerse ourselves in the arts, we also embrace the legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune and Dorothy Height, whose indomitable spirits continue to guide us toward empowerment and transformation.

Within our community, visual artists have used their skills to create depictions of triumph over slavery, the struggles of segregation, and resilience in the face of social injustices. Works from artists like Horace Pippin, with his poignant 'John Brown Going to His Hanging,' and Kara Walker, known for her thought-provoking silhouette installations, challenge perceptions and stimulate dialogue, creating a visual legacy of resilience.

Our musicians have crafted soul-stirring compositions that have become anthems of freedom. From the spirituals of the plantation era, like 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' to the rallying cries of the Civil Rights Movement, such as 'We Shall Overcome', their music encapsulates the spirit of resistance, resilience, and triumph against the odds. Musical maestros like Duke Ellington with his 'Take the A Train', Ella Fitzgerald's 'Summertime', Ray Charles' 'Georgia on My Mind' and contemporary

hip-hop artists have amplified the voices of our community, turning melodies into movements.

African American authors have wielded their pens to challenge norms and provide a voice to the voiceless. From literary giants like Langston Hughes with his influential poem 'I, Too' and Zora Neale Hurston's groundbreaking novel 'Their Eyes Were Watching God' to contemporary voices like Ta-Nehisi Coates and his thought-provoking 'Between the World and Me', their words have guided us toward justice, equality, and the triumph of the human spirit. Our literature has contributed to a legacy that resonates globally.

Filmmakers have skillfully used their craft to document the struggle for civil rights and portray the indomitable resilience of our people. From pioneers like Oscar Micheaux to contemporary visionaries like Ava DuVernay, their stories challenge stereotypes, foster understanding, and contribute to a visual archive that educates and inspires.

As we celebrate the brilliance of African Americans and the arts, we must not forget the crucial task of acknowledging and continuing to fight against social injustices that persist in our society - imparting this rich history to our youth. By instilling an understanding of our cultural legacy, we empower the next generation to carry the torch of resilience, equality, and triumph.

Join us in unity, celebration, and endless inspiration as we actively shape a future where our contributions continue to inspire, transform, and triumph over every challenge. Your role in this journey is invaluable; we can make a difference together.

In unity, celebration, and endless inspiration,

Marie Paula Thermidor

Empowering our Youth for the Future Young Legends Celebrate Black History Month



On Feb. 17, 2024, excited SGV-NCNW Young Legends gathered for their first meeting of 2024 to celebrate Black History month.

After President Marie Thermidor welcomed the students and parents, the excitement began:

- Charlotte Sanders from Southern California Edison (SCE) shared her history and rise through the ranks at SCE.
- Annice Jackson (PR Director) presented the History of NCNW, SGV section, and Young Legends section.
- Logan Baughman (Associate member) inspired the students to rise to new heights in STEAM and other careers.
- Walena Logan (Young Women's Auxiliary Director) led the students in an exciting STEM activity that tested their creativity and scientific ability.
- We were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Andrea Moreno (District Director from Supervisor Hilda L. Solis office in South El Monte). She was looking for a Black History event and found us on the website. What a treat!

Notice that the Young Legends are wearing their new purple t-shirts designed by Walena Logan and printed by Ms. Marquita Ferrette (with help from our own Young Legend Braylynn Ferrette). The room was setup with tables of information displaying our rich Black History as well as pictorial views of the work done by SGV-NCNW. Students were given \$10 Raising Cane's gift cards, won prizes including \$25 Amazon gift cards, and after lunch left with a swag bag filled with Black History information, SCE donations, and many other goodies.

Many thanks to the parents and other attendees for their support. Special thanks to committee members President Marie Thermidor, Brenda Anderson, Sheree Pearson, Walena Logan, and Annice Jackson for their hard work and dedicated efforts in making this a successful and memorable event for our Young Legends. Stay tuned for more Young Legends events.

Note: Young Legends is for elementary and high school students. Major focus is on STEAM education. The section also partners with Caltech Y in providing Math/Science tutoring.

Young Legends Celebrate Black History Month



SCE speaker
Charlotte Sanders



Logan Baughman speaks to students.



President Thermidor greets students.



Director Moreno, winners of STEM activity,
and SGV-NCNW Board members.



3rd VP Walena Logan prepares students for a
STEM activity.



Working on STEM activity.



Students
working on
STEM activity.



Empowering Communities: SGV-NCNW Receives \$10K Grant from Albertsons Companies



Pictured: Sandra Lee (Community Service Chair) and Dr. Thomas Lee (SGV-NCNW Associate)

Excitement fills the air as we reveal a game-changing announcement that promises to amplify our community service efforts! The San Gabriel Valley Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. has been generously awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Albertsons Companies Foundation to supercharge our Community Service Grocery and Holiday Meal Program.

This extraordinary grant underscores the shared commitment of our organization and the Albertsons Companies Foundation to combat food insecurity and spread holiday cheer to those in need. Our deepest gratitude goes out to the foundation for their unwavering support.

Let's dive into the thrilling impact this monumental grant will have on our Community Service Grocery and Holiday Meal Program:

Expanded Grocery Assistance: A substantial portion of the grant will turbocharge our Community Service Grocery Program. We're on a mission to provide essential groceries to families facing food insecurity, ensuring they have access to nutritious and wholesome meals.

Enhanced Holiday Meal Program ALL Year Round: Brace yourselves for an elevated Holiday Meal Program as we use the grant to create festive meals for families who might otherwise miss out during the holidays. It's all about fostering a sense of community and joy!

Bridging the Gap of Food Insecurity: The grant bridges the gap in food insecurity in underserved communities.

Through our expanded programs, we're gearing up to reach more families and make a meaningful impact on their daily lives.

Community Collaboration: This grant is more than a financial boost; it catalyzes our collaboration with local partners and organizations, including 100 BMIE and the Christian Development Center. Together, we're creating a more comprehensive and effective support system for our community.

Thank you to the Albertsons Companies Foundation for investing in our vital work and showcasing a shared commitment to ending food insecurity. Your generous contribution is poised to make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

We believe in the power of community engagement and transparency. As we roll out these initiatives, we invite our members to actively participate, offer insights, and join us in spreading the spirit of giving during the upcoming holiday season.

This grant isn't just a financial contribution; it's a powerful testament to the Albertsons Companies Foundation's belief in our mission. Together, we're poised to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

Our Community Service Grocery and Holiday Meal Program is ready to assist anyone in need. Please share our website at sgvncnw.com and click on the Community Services option to submit a request.

Get ready for a season of impact and joy!

Empowering Futures: Caltech Invests in STEAM Scholarships for Young Legends



In our unyielding quest for academic excellence and the provision of vital resources to nurture skills in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM), the Caltech Y and ASCIT student organization have been champions of our Young Legends program for the past three years. This enduring partnership has not only offered crucial tutoring services, with a specific focus on math, science, and various subjects, but has also left an indelible mark on the academic journeys of our talented students.

Collaborating with Caltech Y and ASCIT has yielded transformative results, witnessing tutored students significantly improve their academic performance. Most importantly, these tutoring sessions have ignited a profound passion for mathematics, inspiring our Young Legends to explore and excel in diverse STEAM-related subjects.

Building on the success of this partnership, we are thrilled to announce that Caltech has taken an additional step, making a powerful investment in the educational futures of our Young Legends. This is just the beginning of our commitment. Caltech plans to continue investing in the STEAM scholarships for our Young Legends, aiming to expand the program and reach more students in the future. A generous \$5,000 donation for STEAM scholarships not only underscores Caltech's commitment to fostering academic growth but also signifies their belief in the boundless potential of our Young Legends to make a significant impact in the STEAM fields.

SGV-NCNW is elated to share that we have been selected as a recipient of this scholarship funding, marking a

profound milestone in our ongoing collaboration with Caltech Y and ASCIT. This additional investment serves as a testament to Caltech's dedication to nurturing academic excellence and belief in the capacity of our Young Legends to contribute meaningfully to the dynamic world of STEAM. The scholarships, awarded through a rigorous selection process that considers exceptional dedication, talent, and enthusiasm for STEAM subjects, aim to provide financial support to students, propelling them toward the realization of their educational aspirations.

The Caltech Y and ASCIT student organization remain steadfast partners in our mission to empower and uplift underserved youth, offering them opportunities to excel and thrive in STEAM education. We express immeasurable gratitude for their unwavering support, and this new scholarship initiative, where SGV-NCNW received \$5,000, stands as a powerful testament to the enduring impact of our collective efforts.

As we eagerly anticipate the future, we are energized by the boundless possibilities that these scholarships will unlock for our Young Legends. These scholarships, which have already begun to transform the lives of our recipients, will enable them to pursue higher education and contribute significantly to the ever-evolving landscape of STEAM disciplines.

Our heartfelt appreciation extends to Caltech Y, ASCIT, and Caltech for their unwavering commitment to education, empowerment, and the triumphant success of our Young Legends. Together, we are shaping a future where passion, potential, and opportunity converge to create an enduring legacy of positive change.

Proclamation

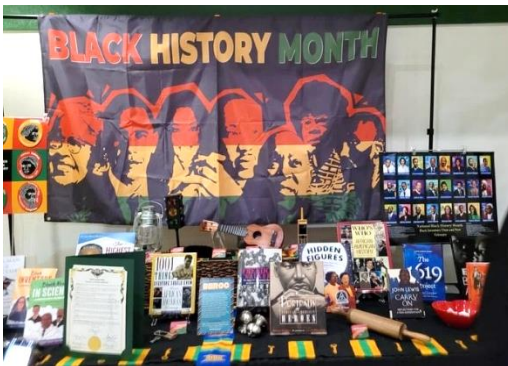


Diamond Bar City Council and SGV-NCNW Board of Directors

On Feb. 6, 2024, the Diamond Bar City Council officially proclaimed February 2024 as "Black History Month." It affirmed their unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of freedom, equity, justice, and access for all. During a City Council meeting on the same day, the Council presented SGV-NCNW with a proclamation, recognizing our contributions to the community and acknowledging the invaluable impact of Black Americans.

We extend our gratitude to Mayor Stan Liu and the Diamond Bar City Council for this significant recognition and their steadfast dedication to fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. Mayor Liu attended our January meeting as a guest, marking a wonderful start to our first General Body meeting of 2024. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with him and the city as we continue our essential work in serving the community. Together, we have the power to make a positive impact!

Join us in commemorating Black History Month, and let's persist in honoring and celebrating Black Americans' rich history and achievements during this dedicated month and throughout the entire year.



AQMD Black History display



SGV-NCNW swag for Mayor Lui



SGV-NCNW Board of Directors pictured with Mayor Stan Lui

Helen Hall: Beacon of Leadership, Advocacy, and Resilience in Education and Cancer Awareness



Pictured: Dr. Donna Hunter, Denise McPheeters, Darneisha Beeler (VP Community Manager at JPMorgan Chase), Betty Smith, Helen Hall, President Marie Thermidor, Annice Jackson, Walena Logan, Sandra Lee

February's General Body meeting resonated with the empowering theme of "Thrivers & Survivors!" Our guest speaker, Helen Hall, President of the Walnut Valley Unified School Board, is very much appreciated for her incredible dedication to WUSD, spanning over 40 years of service.

As a parent and a School Board member, Helen passionately advocates for expanding STEM courses and providing essential equipment. She is committed to exposing children to diverse cultures and collaborates with the district's families and students. Helen emphasizes the critical need for sustainable public funding for education, advocating for special education, and actively engaging with students through classroom visits.

Beyond her impactful contributions to the WUSD, Helen is a cancer survivor and advocate. She has participated in the 3-day Susan G Komen breast cancer walk, raising over \$100K for breast cancer research. Inspired by Maya Angelou's wisdom, Helen firmly believes that "people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

SGV-NCNW Recognizes Top 3 Overall Fundraising Leaders

As a national Black grassroots organization, our success in serving underserved communities is fueled by our members' passion, commitment, hard work, and dedication. We extend heartfelt congratulations to three phenomenal ladies—Dr. Lisa Baughman, Denise McPheeters, and Dr. Niedha Welch—for their outstanding achievements in fundraising, earning them the special recognition of the Achieving Excellence in Fundraising Award.



Pictured: Dr. Lisa Baughman, Denise McPheeters, Dr. Niedha Welch, and President Marie Thermidor

For the 2023–2024 period, these remarkable individuals raised the following impressive amounts:

- Dr. Lisa Baughman (\$5559.00)
- Denise McPheeters (\$4699.00)
- Dr. Niedha Welch (\$3696.00)

Our sincere thanks to all our members for supporting SGV-NCNW fundraisers and contributing to the success of these remarkable ladies. It truly takes a collaborative effort to make our events successful.

SCE's 22nd Black History Month Celebration: Fostering Thriving Communities

On Feb. 16, 2024, SGV members participated in Southern California Edison's 22nd Black History Month event in Irwindale, CA. The event, themed "Fostering Thriving Communities," unfolded with a morning of networking, impactful speakers, and the acknowledgment of African American businesses and community organizations dedicated to clean energy, community engagement, and diversity.

Congratulations to all the honorees! The event provided a wealth of valuable information, and we express our gratitude to SCE for extending the invitation, allowing us to connect and learn more about their commendable initiatives in our communities. As a result, we look forward to exploring Edison programs and services, including Edison Scholars, Line Worker Scholarship, and Free Energy Education classes, which we plan to introduce to Young Legends and the broader SGV-NCNW membership.



SCE Black History Program presenters



Networking



Networking



Building Bridges: SGV-NCNW Strengthens Ties with Pasadena Chamber of Commerce



Chamber member (left) pictured with SGV-NCNW Board members President Marie Thermidor, Treasurer Denise McPheeters, and PR Director Annice Jackson.

As of January 17, 2024, SGV-NCNW proudly became a member of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association, a dynamic organization offering professional business support and advocacy. The Chamber warmly embraced SGV-NCNW, actively promoting our events. Connecting with numerous individuals who expressed keen interest in our work, we anticipate a fruitful relationship with this esteemed organization.

SGV-NCNW Engages Pasadena Rotary Club: Fostering Community Collaboration



SGV-NCNW Board members President Marie Thermidor, Treasurer Denise McPheeters, and PR Director Annice Jackson lunch with Rotary Club members.

Deep Gratitude to Pasadena Rotary for Hosting SGV-NCNW!

We thank Pasadena Rotary for graciously hosting SGV-NCNW as their guest at the January club meeting. The opportunity to share our mission and work with this fantastic group of individuals was truly appreciated. Engaging in meaningful discussions and exchanging ideas on creating a positive impact in our community was a pleasure. We eagerly anticipate continued collaboration and partnerships that drive positive change in the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire. Together, we can make a meaningful difference!

Celebration of Black History: 2nd Annual Black History of Arts Fair



We are excited to announce the tremendous success of the "Celebration of Black History: 2nd Annual Black History of Arts Fair." The event was organized in partnership with The Black Chamber of Commerce, the City of Montclair, and various community partners. It was truly a remarkable display of the richness of Black culture.

Attendees were able to fully immerse themselves in a dynamic celebration that featured a variety of cultural insights, delicious cuisine, health vendors, community organizations, and the enthusiastic participation of local businesses. The event was aptly named and brought the entire community together to commemorate and explore the diverse and impactful history of the Black community.

This event served as a wonderful way to celebrate Black History Month and showcased the power of community strength and unity. The success of this second annual celebration is a testament to the dedication and commitment of The Black Chamber of Commerce, the City of Montclair, the Christian Development Center, and all the contributors who played a pivotal role in making this event unforgettable.



Black History Display Table



Inland Empire Health Plan



Montclair Police Department
with CDC Pastors Donald & Ethel Rucker





Secure Your Ticket Now! Don't Miss SGV-NCNW's 2024 Inaugural Gala!

Greetings SGV-NCNW,

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of inspiration, empowerment, and celebration at the SGV-NCNW 2024 Inaugural Gala! We're thrilled to invite each of you to be a part of this momentous occasion as we come together to honor our community heroes and showcase the impactful work of SGV-NCNW.

Date: April 6, 2024

This Gala is more than just an event; it's a celebration of our collective achievements and a testament to the positive changes we've been making in our communities. We'll be highlighting the incredible contributions of our members, recognizing our outstanding partners, and unveiling the vision for the future.

Why You Must Be There

Inspiring Speakers: Be prepared to be moved by powerful words that ignite passion and drive positive change.

Community Heroes: We'll be celebrating and honoring those who have made significant contributions to the well-being of our communities.

Networking Opportunities: Connect with like-minded individuals who are committed to making a difference.

The Culmination of Hard Work: Witness the culmination of the dedication and hard work of SGV-NCNW members and partners.

As a valued member of SGV-NCNW, your presence will add to the vibrancy of the evening. We encourage you to invite friends, family, and colleagues to join us in this celebration of unity, empowerment, and community impact.

This Gala is not just about looking back at our accomplishments; it's a launchpad for the incredible journey ahead. Together, we'll continue our commitment to serve, uplift, and empower.

We'll also be celebrating the culmination of our "Cooking with Community Heroes" initiative, recognizing those who have contributed to the success of SGV-NCNW. Your presence will make this evening even more special.

Join us as we embark on this exciting journey. Secure your spot today and share the invitation with those who share our passion for positive change.

To RSVP and secure your tickets, click here: https://www.flipcause.com/hosted_widget/hostedWidgetHome/MTk5NTM2

Thank you for your unwavering support, and we look forward to celebrating with you!

Warm regards,

Marie P. Thermidor

SGV-NCNW President

Betty Smith

SGV-NCNW Gala Chair

Black History Month 2024 Celebrates the Arts and Artists that Enrich Us



Gordon Parks

Photographer, composer, author, poet, & film director; one of the first Black American filmmakers to direct films within the Hollywood system.



Melvin Van Peebles

Actor, filmmaker, writer, & composer; worked as an active filmmaker into the 2000 & became an independent filmmaker.



Spike Lee

Film director, producer, screenwriter, actor, & author. His production company has produced more than 35 films since 1983.



Ta-Nehisi Paul Coates

Author, journalist, & activist; National correspondent writing about cultural, social, & political issues, regarding African Americans and white supremacy.



Judith Ann Jamison

Dancer and choreographer; Artistic director emerita of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.



Misty Danielle Copeland

Ballet dancer for American Ballet Theatre (ABT), first African American woman to be promoted to principal dancer in ABT's history.



Phyllis Wheatley

Considered the first African American author of a published book of poetry.



Zora Neale Hurston

Author, anthropologist, & filmmaker; wrote over 50 short stories, plays, & essays.



Amanda Gorman

Youngest U.S. inaugural poet in history; award-winning writer; cum laude graduate of Harvard University.



Quincy Delight Jones Jr.

Record producer, songwriter, composer, arranger, & film and television producer. Winner of 28 Grammy Awards and a Grammy Legend Award in 1992.



Jay-Z

Rapper, record producer, & entrepreneur. Known for his involvement in the success of other artists; named the greatest other rapper of all time by Billboard and Vibe in 2023.



James Langston Hughes

Poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, & columnist; one of the earliest innovators of "jazz poetry" literary art form.

UPCOMING Events

SGV-NCNW GENERAL MEETINGS: 1ST SATURDAYS @ 9:30 AM IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

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**SGV-NCNW's
Plant Your Vision with Ro
Hosted by
Young Women's Auxiliary
March 9, 2024 @ 2:30pm to 4:30pm**

**Artist and Visionary of Krafty Sunflower
Rachele "Ro" Tate**

**Join us for a Day of Painting, Creating our
Visions and Fellowshiping**

\$20/pp all supplies included
Light Refreshments
RSVP by February 26, 2024
Zelle to sgvncnw@gmail.com
Full Name w/title Plant Your Vision

South Coast Air Quality
Management District
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Rm TBD

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