



**ncnw**  
san gabriel valley section

# Sisters-to-Sisters Newsletter

May 2023

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

*"A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity. It dares all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path."*

- AGATHA CHRISTIE



TOWN&COUNTRY



## From President Marie Paula Thermidor

**Happy Mother's Day** to all of you beautiful ladies who are celebrating the women who raised and shaped you into the person you are today. May this day bring to your heart joy and fun memories.

**Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn't know you had.**

-Linda Wooten



### THE BLACK MOTHER - By Marcus Mosiah Garvey

Where can I find love that never changes  
Smiles that are true and always just the same,  
Caring not how the fierce tempest rages,  
Willing ever to shield my honored name?

This I find at home, only with Mother,  
Who cares for me with patient tenderness;  
She from every human pain would rather  
Save me, and drink the dregs of bitterness.

If on life's way I happen to flounder,  
My true thoughts should be of Mother dear,  
She is the rock that ne'er rifts asunder,  
The cry of her child, be it far or near.

This is love wonderful beyond compare;  
It is God's choicest gift to mortal man;  
You, who know Mother, in this thought must share,  
For, she, of all, is Angel of your Clan.

My Mother is black, loveliest of all;  
Yes, she is as pure as the new made morn;  
Her song of glee is a clear rhythmic call  
To these arms of love to which I was born.

I shall never forget you, sweet Mother,  
Where'er in life I may happen to roam;  
Thou shalt always be the Fairy Charmer  
To turn my dearest thoughts to things at home.

“  
**A mother's love liberates.**

- Maya Angelou



“  
**Mother's love is peace. It need not be acquired, it need not be deserved.**

- Erich Fromm

**HAVE A WONDERFUL MOTHER'S DAY!**

*Marie Paula Thermidor*

## Honoring Mothers

David Spence shares characteristics of his mother - Ms. Annette Spence



David and Annette Spence

### A GOOD MOTHER

Trying to define the traits of a good mother is like trying to discern how many stars there are in the heavens. Each has its own life providing, nebulous, combustible, complex properties, yet are also filled with nurturing, wonderful and beautiful assets. Being a mother involves physical, emotional, and personal growth, and change.

Some specific characteristics that my mother possesses include the fortitude to seek change and the respect of how that change impacted her life. My mother sacrificed personal goals and ambitions to ensure a better path of life for me. My mother spent countless hours improving herself so that she could better teach, lead, and love me.

My mother's love is still fully on display every day. Kind words, thoughtful actions and nurturing hugs continue to prove to me that her love knows no bounds.

I am blessed and grateful!

*David Spence*

Denise McPheeters shares inspiring characteristics of mothers and women in her life

Denise spends a day with her grandchildren.



Inspiring characteristics or key traits of a good mother:  
As I think about my grandmother, my mother and other women in my life who are mothers, some of the most inspiring characteristics that had an influence on me are:

- ❖ Strong yet humble
- ❖ Kind yet stern
- ❖ Comfortable using "tough love"
- ❖ Consistent in messaging
- ❖ Patient, slow to anger
- ❖ Nurturing and motherly although never birthed a child
- ❖ Made time for her family and for herself
- ❖ Loving and kind

These mothers also embrace and truly value the concept that "it takes a village", so by drawing on the wisdom and

experience of other mothers, their journey was one with fewer regrets and full of fond memories. Although not one is perfect at this, each one in her own way does the best she can with what she knows, striving to get it right.

"A child's first teacher is its mother."

— PENG LIYUAN





## Honoring Mothers

### Annice Jackson honors foster mother – Ms. Verleaner Dixon



Ms. Verleaner Dixon

#### Celebrating an Amazing Foster Mother

She never had any biological children of her own, but as a foster mother she provided love and nurturing care for over 100 girls. For decades, **Ms. Verleaner Dixon of Pasadena, now 101 years old**, provided a supportive, loving and stable family home to girls of various ethnicities and backgrounds. She used her own money to provide food, clothing, outings, trips and other things that children love for many years. But most of all she provided love and a sound religious environment. They call her “Mother Dixon”.

She was a counselor, a coach, a tutor, a friend and a role model to them. Some stayed with her through their college years. Some still call and/or come by to visit her. That’s one amazing mother.

**NOTE:** Ms. Dixon is a past SGV-NCNW member who continued to attend events and support the section through her 90s. On May 27, 2023, she will be 101 years old. Happy Birthday, Mother Dixon. Thank you for your loving hands.

### Valerie Tawiah honors 2 women who raised family members



Mrs. Willie Williams

**Mrs. Willie Williams;** raised two of her sisters’ children: Dr. Darryl Jean Evans became school principal in Flint Michigan, and her sister Mrs. Shirley Ann Turner had over forty years career in the United States Navy and was stationed in San Diego, California.



Mrs. Bessie Jackson

**Mrs. Bessie Jackson;** helped raise and educate her **twelve siblings**. Mrs. Jackson mothered children in L.A. County Probation Dept. Mrs. Jackson was a missionary who traveled the world with ministers, built school for children in New Zealand, and fed the hungry in Haiti. Mrs. Jackson is a retired Deputy Probation Officer.

## “A Dyamond Touch”: Providing Mom and Baby Essentials to Pregnant Teens



Loreece A Flennory, Founder A Dyamond Touch



SGV-NCNW recently donated diapers, wipes, baby blankets, baby bibs, baby socks, onesies, and pacifiers to A Dyamond Touch.



**A Dyamond Touch** ensures that **teenage moms** in the underserved community **feel special and cared for** as they prepare to become new parents. Its goal is to lessen the moms stress by providing them with baby showers and basic baby needs to jump start their parental journey.

**Loreece A Flennory**, a native from Southern California, known for her creative niche and her passion for Event Designing is CEO and Founder. Loreece has a deep-rooted passion for children and community for which she feels blessed to have been given the opportunity and resources to dedicate nearly 20 years of her life's mission to giving back to the community and hosting children events from her own pocket. Loreece knows all too well the struggle of teen pregnancy and contributes her desire to assist pregnant teens with being a pregnant teen herself. With the passion and determination for change, her non-profit was born, A Dyamond Touch.

She has utilized her knowledge and the blessing of being a Pediatric Nurse for over 15 years, and an Accredited Event Designer, as a platform to provide uniquely themed baby showers with mom and baby essentials to undeserved pregnant teens in the community.

## Honoring NCNW's 7th National President and Chair, Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole



President Joseph R. Biden presented a **2021 National Humanities Medal** on March 21, 2023 to NCNW's Dr. Johnnetta Cole for her ongoing contributions to Afro-Latin, Caribbean, and African communities and for advancing the American understanding of Black culture.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1936, Cole remembers sitting on the living room floor as a child to leaf through her mother's art catalogs, books, she says, that were too heavy to lift. An English teacher and registrar, Cole's mother filled her home with dazzling African American art, including reproductions of the work of Charles W. White and Elizabeth Catlett, and classic works of literature. Cole was named president of Spelman College in Atlanta, in 1987. The first African American woman to hold the title, Cole saw great potential in the students at the historically Black college for women. **Congratulations Dr. Cole!!**



# Welcome to our New Members



Neville and Parry Abraham

As the queen of networking and supporting a great cause, I was thrilled to find that **SGV-NCNW offers the best of both**. This long standing and noble organization represents so much of where my beliefs are grounded. There is no better place to be than with my people doing small things that net big results. Neville supports me in every way possible and was thrilled when I told him “we” were joining.



Nicholas Walker

I had heard about NCNW some time ago from our sister Denise McPheeters. When my wife Pamela Walker joined, **I wanted to support her**. SGV-NCNW has a history of looking at opportunities to uplift both women and men who are struggling. I’m hoping to assist the organization with their objectives.



Kwabena Philip Tawiah

Kwabena Philip Tawiah, is a supporter of SGV and his wife Valerie Tawiah. He is of West African descent Ashanti Tribe, in Tanoso Kumasi Ghana. He is a Retired Regional Administrator, Civil Servant. **Kwabena cared for his wife’s mother and his mother**; they both lived beyond the age of 100 years. An entrepreneur, and businessman on two continents. He loves birds and gardening.



Walena Logan & family

Hello everyone! My name is Walena Logan , a mother of two. I’m excited to be a part of SGV-NCNW. I am self-employed, and love being with my kids, insects, and working on cars . I graduated from University of California, Riverside with a Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology and did the graduate program for Masters of Education. I am **very passionate about helping and educating others** in the STEM fields because it is necessary for us to be given the opportunity to excel in the science parameter. Wishing everyone a successful and prosperous year. Can’t wait to see and meet everyone.

### Edward Koeller – (not pictured)

Edward Koeller joined SGV-NCNW to support his wife Joann Koeller and to **support the SGV programs**. He is a retired financial consultant. He likes to travel and build furniture with his hands.

## Welcome to our New Members



**Marcia Hines-  
McPheeters**

I rejoined SGV-NCNW in March, 2023, after marching in the Pasadena Black History Parade in February with SGV and MPYD. It was a great experience and fun way of connecting with the community. There was a **sense of pride by the members** that was contagious! For many years I have had the privilege of supporting my sister, Denise McPheeters, with many SGV events, e.g. Annual Cash Raffle, Membership Teas and, most recently as a new member, the Double Good Fundraiser.

I am native to Altadena, and reside with my husband, Kenneth McPheeters, in Altadena. As parents and grandparents, we support and value education, youth development, and community service, all of which are reflective of SGV-NCNW. As I see it, it is a perfect fit for me to serve in various capacities. Time with family is very important to me, and in between work and caring for my mother, I am an avid reader and book club member for many years.

My passion is giving back and uplifting. I look forward to serving where I can make a difference/where I can best make a contribution to SGV-NCNW.



**Lawrence Gibbs**

I am proud to be a member of SGV NCNW as an Associate member. I joined the organization because of the **involvement with the community** and the work that is being done with the youth.

My work history with Metropolitan Water District spans over a period of 37 years. I retired as a Facility Manager. I controlled the operation and auxiliary functions at Headquarters.

After retirement, I was able to expand my passion as an active member of my church. I currently serve as Head of Trustees, a Deacon, in the Men's Ministry and sing in several choirs. My other passion is golfing. I currently work part time at the golf course, which gives me the opportunity to golf for free.

I look forward to serving SGV NCNW in an area that will meet the needs of the organization.



**Dr. Niedha Welch**

I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with a PsyD in Marriage and Family Therapy. I have worked in the mental health field for about 16 years. Throughout my career, I have enjoyed working with an extensive population that has ranged from the adult drug and alcohol population, victims of abuse, incarcerated adults, special needs children and students, as well as children in group homes and residential treatment facilities that struggle with various diagnoses. My passion is to educate others on the importance of mental wellness. I appreciate opportunities to show up, support, and celebrate others and meet people where they so they can be where they want to be. **My motto is: Establish, maintain, and cultivate relationships.**

Welcome  
to our  
New Members



**Vickie Lobo**  
CEO / Executive Director for  
Knock Knock Angels



**Dr. Joana Tala**  
American College of Lifestyle  
Medicine. Certified Lifestyle  
Medicine Professional

Judy Mabry – new member (not pictured)

“Let This Be Your Blessing for Others” shared by Betty Williams

*By Martha Smock from Listen, Beloved*

I have faith in you, because I have faith in God in you.  
I do not pray for you to be better than you are;  
I pray for you to be as good as you are.  
I pray for you to express your true Christ self.  
I do not pray for you to be happy in the way I think your  
happiness lies.  
I pray for you to follow your indwelling light, which always  
leads to fulfillment and happiness.  
I do not pray for you to be free from responsibilities.  
I pray for you to be free from worry and anxiety, to be the  
fearless, wise, confident, capable being that you are in Spirit.  
I do not pray for you to conform to my idea of success and  
achievement.  
I pray for you to express and expand your God-given abilities  
and talents in your own unique and wonderful way.  
I pray for you, knowing that you are beloved of God.  
I bless you without reservation.  
I love you as God loves you.



**Betty Williams**



## Community Service – A Treat for Moms & Children



Led by our two Community Service Chairs Sandra Lee and Cheryl Robinson, SGV-NCNW purchased items for the **House of Ruth** for the children to make Easter baskets.

House of Ruth has been providing life-saving domestic violence services for residents of eastern Los Angeles and western San Bernardino counties since 1977. Participation in House of Ruth programming is open to all battered women, men, and their children. All of House of Ruth's programs are free of charge. There is no discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, religion, national origin, medical condition, marital status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

## SGV Supports HBCU Students

On May 7, 2023 on behalf of SGV-NCNW, several of our Executive Board members presented Jack & Jill of America Inc., Pasadena Chapter a **check for \$500 for the JJ College Gap Fund**. Since 2006 these funds have been used to support students attending HBCUs in helping alleviate some of the financial barriers associated with going to college.

SGV-NCNW values are consistent with their direction specifically in the area of education and supporting our young people. Upon learning about the Gap Foundation scholarship program, SGV-NCNW was inspired by Jack & Jill's commitment and goals in inspiring students in their pursuit of education at our HBCUs. We consider it a **privilege to support our sister organizations** and those who invest in our youth and education.



### "A MOTHER'S Love" shared by Valerie Tawiah

Her love is like an island  
In life's ocean, vast and wide  
A peaceful, quiet shelter  
From the wind, the rain, the tide.

'Tis bound on the north by Hope,  
By Patience on the West,  
By tender Counsel on the South  
And on the East by Rest.

Above it like a beacon light  
Shine Faith, and Truth, and Prayer;  
And thro' the changing scenes of life  
I find a haven there.

Author unknown



## Networking with SGV's Partners



Several SGV members woke up bright and early to volunteer their time in helping with the **100 Black Men of Inland Empire 7th Annual Golf Tournament**. This annual tournament helps 100BMIE raise funds for their youth programs & scholarship fund. As **The Nation's Top African American Led Mentoring Organization**, 100 BMIE helps to create opportunities for the youth to discover and explore their unique gifts and talents. The organization help our youth realize their potential by showing them how to be successful and significant, stressing the importance of obtaining and applying education, and providing them the tools that empower them for self-sufficiency, cultivated civic, and business leadership.



The ladies and associate members of SGV-NCNW were honored to be part of Heroes 1st Monte Carlo Magic Fundraiser event on March 18, 2023.

**Heroes 1st** is a nonprofit organization that provides health, education, employment services and more with empathy and understanding to veterans in our communities.

Four of its board members (Lisa & Logan Baughman, Parry & Neville Abraham) are proud members and supporters of SGV-NCNW!





## Double Good Fundraiser – A Success



Double Good™



Members, SGV-NCNW exceeded our goal on the Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser. **We made \$8,741.50 in profits!** Amazing in just 4 days – May 2 – May 6. Kudos to those who had popup stations and many thanks to all who purchased popcorn or donated online. Many thanks!

## Young Legends Update



Marquis and Braylynn Ferrette were among the attendees at the Black Youth Conference.

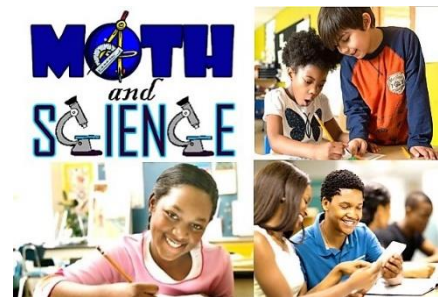
Rainy weather did not stop our Young Legends from attending the 1<sup>st</sup> Black Youth Conference at Pomona College. They learned much from the speakers and had a great time networking with other students. We look forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference.

## Math Tutoring – A Success!

SGV-NCNW is finishing up its second successful year of Math tutoring with Caltech volunteers. **Parents and students are very pleased with the tutoring their students received.**

- Braylynn Ferrette (6<sup>th</sup> grade) said **“I love my tutor”**.
- Maya Melvin (8<sup>th</sup> grade) mom will ask the tutor to record a session so SGV can **showcase this program** and share it with others. She is very impressed with the tutor’s teaching style.
- When I contacted Annelise (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and Grace McDaniel (11<sup>th</sup> grade), their mom’s first response was **“please don’t take our tutor away”**.

Many thanks to the Caltech Y team and the university for such great service. The tutors volunteer their time weekly to help our students. We are eternally grateful.





# UPCOMING Events

**SGV-NCNW GENERAL MEETINGS: 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAYS @ 9:30 AM VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON**



**YOUNG LEGENDS**  
*Invite you to join us for a trip to*



Caltech - California Institute of Technology  
1200 E California Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91125

**Young Legends - Make a Difference Day Event**  
*Sponsored by Caltech Y*  
**Saturday May 20, 2023 – 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**  
**Please arrive by 9:45 am**

Caltech students will provide a tour around campus. After that, some talks (this will be a mix of sharing cool STEM research and nerdy hobbies). Lunch will be provided.

**Meeting Location: (please arrive by 9:45 am)**  
In front of the Chen Neuroscience Research Building on campus (at the corner of S Wilson Ave & E Del Mar Blvd, Pasadena, CA, 91106)

**Parking:**  
Visitor passes will be available at the N Wilson Structure. For more information, visit: <https://parking.caltech.edu/parking-info/visitor-parking>

To attend, please contact Annice Jackson with by May 13, 2023  
[annicehj@gmail.com](mailto:annicehj@gmail.com); 626-644-3060

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*Save  
the  
Date*




SGV-NCNW

*Membership Luncheon*

05 AUGUST 2023

Contact Suze Moss, Membership Chair [royere@gmail.com](mailto:royere@gmail.com)  
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**MPYD SENIOR CEREMONY**  
**May 20th at 1:00pm**  
**John Muir High School**  
**Pasadena, CA**