



District 5 Fall Newsletter

Release Date: December 20, 2013

1221 Oak St., Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612
Tel. (510) 272-6695
Fax (510) 271-5151
dist5@acgov.org



The Fifth District includes the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville and Piedmont; the West Oakland, North Oakland and Rockridge communities and portions of the Grand Lake, Manzanita, Dimond District and Fruitvale neighborhoods.

Dear Friends,

On December 5, 2013, "World Citizen" Nelson Mandela passed on. I send my thoughts and prayers to his family and the people of South Africa. I wish to celebrate what he taught us by example: to never give up on your principles, your goals, your vision. He taught us that one person or a small committed group can and will make a difference. He taught us about love—love of yourself, and love for your people—that will affect everyone around you. I was transformed and the world was transformed by his strength and his ability to not be consumed by hate but to turn hate into love.



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (July 18, 1918 – December 5, 2013)

Nelson Mandela taught us to turn every situation into a learning opportunity. While at Robben Island, he and other leaders of the African National Congress turned their site of incarceration into a place of learning, a university, a place that in fact gave fuel to the revolution in South Africa.

Along with others in the United States, I was arrested fighting apartheid, introduced local policies to divest from companies that were doing business in South Africa, and was a lead organizer for Nelson Mandela's first and only visit to the Bay Area on June 30, 1990. At the time, I was an aide to former Congressman Ronald V. Dellums, author of the first anti-apartheid legislation in the United States Congress.

I had the opportunity to meet Nelson Mandela and in 1994, our office organized the largest and only celebration in the Bay Area when Nelson Mandela became the first Black President of South Africa. I will continue to be guided by the ideals for which Nelson Mandela fought and sacrificed. The world is a better place because Nelson Mandela lived!

Please enjoy the contents of this newsletter and share relevant information with your family and networks. I welcome your thoughts and feedback about all of our communications. You can reach us at (510) 272-6695 or dist5@acgov.org.

Sincerely yours,

Keith Carson

Supervisor, District 5



Alameda County Vehicle Fleet Named One of 20 Greenest in North America

Green Fleet Magazine named Alameda County's vehicle fleet the 17th Greenest Fleet in North America. Alameda County is the highest ranked fleet of all California counties, with 175 gas/electric hybrids and 21 electric vehicles, which together save more than \$200,000 in annual fuel costs. For more information, click here:

<http://www.acgov.org/sustain/news/greenfleets2.htm>



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALAMEDA COUNTY DISTRICT 5!

Left to right: Elaine Brown, Rodney Brooks, Mina Sanchez, Supervisor Keith Carson, Aisha Brown, Amy Shrago, Kevin Jenkins and Hannah Greene

County News

Youth Ancestral Project Update

In a small classroom on the second floor of Congregation Beth El in Berkeley last fall, a handful of students and a local genealogist pored over photocopied sheets of old census records, searching for clues about their ancestors. The class was part of the Youth Ancestral Project, a program initiated by Supervisor Carson in February 2011 to empower youth to connect with their ancestral roots through intergenerational dialogue, research, and storytelling.

Since the initial classes began, the project has expanded to reach youth in the Jewish, Asian, and Latino communities, as well as youth who participate in Alameda County Probation Department's Weekend Training Academy and the Beyond Emancipation program for former foster youth.

In 2012 and 2013, the project was managed by local non-profit Alternatives in Action with funding from the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency School Health Services Coalition. Expert support has come from staff and volunteer genealogists from the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, the California Genealogical Society, and the Oakland Family History Center.

Ancestral Project...continued on p. 6

County Employees Collect 5 Tons of Food

Alameda County's first Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition featured spirited rivalries as departments competed to collect non-perishable foods and create imaginative displays highlighting the issue of hunger in Alameda County. For pictures of the winning entries, please visit:

<http://www.acgov.org/government/news/stonesoup.htm>

All food will be donated to the Alameda County Community Food Bank <http://www.accfb.org/>.

Alameda County Encourages Healthy Nail Salon Practices Program Protects Workers and Customers

Alameda County's Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program (HNSRP) recognizes local businesses that protect the health of their employees, customers, and the environment by using less toxic products. Participating salons use only nail polishes that do not contain toluene, formaldehyde or dibutyl phthalate. These chemicals have been linked to reproductive and developmental issues, cancer, and neurological and respiratory problems.

Alameda County Environmental Health staff provide salons with health and safety trainings that help business owners improve air quality and ventilation.

Benefits of participating in the voluntary program include formal recognition as a Healthy Nail Salon and a listing on the Alameda County website. There are more than 350 salons and roughly 1,000 workers who provide a variety of nail services within Alameda County. Seven nail salons have been officially recognized as Healthy Nail Salons in Alameda County.

In District 5, Alameda County has recognized Fashion Nails, located at 1821 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94703.

Many nail salon workers in California are women from the Vietnamese community who may have barriers to access to health information and care. Studies of nail technicians suggest a higher risk of work-related health problems, including respiratory issues, skin problems, headaches, and neurological, developmental and reproductive harm.

For more information about Alameda County's HNSRP, please click here: <http://www.acgov.org/aceh/documents/AC-Healthy-Nail-Salon-Basic-Description-for-Business.pdf>

Read more in Vietnamese:

http://www.acgov.org/aceh/documents/AC_HNSR_Basic_Descr_Business_Viet-040313.pdf

For a list of recognized Healthy Nail Salons, please click here:

http://www.acgov.org/aceh/documents/RECOGNIZED_HEALTHY_NAIL_SALONS.pdf

Holiday Food and Clothing Resources

ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland, CA 94621
 If you need food, call the Emergency Food Helpline at 1-(800) 870-FOOD (3663) and follow the prompts for "Holiday Food." For volunteer and donation opportunities, please call 510-635-3663 or visit <http://www.accfb.org>.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER COAT DRIVE

Warm coats of all sizes are needed from now until December 28th. The coats will be given away on a regular basis through the Clothing Closet. For more information, please call (510) 877-9250 or visit <http://www.svdp-alameda.org/>.

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY (BOSS) HOLIDAY DRIVE

Now through New Year's, BOSS is collecting gifts and other needed items to help give the homeless families and individuals in their programs holidays full of warmth, compassion, hope, and joy, no matter what challenges they are facing. Items needed include towels and toiletries, blankets and sleeping bags, new socks, gift cards, and warm coats. To get involved, contact Sonja at (510) 649-1930 x 222 or sfitz@self-sufficiency.org.

CHRISTMAS MEAL

South Berkeley Community Church
 1802 Fairview Street, Berkeley, CA
 Monday, December 23, 2013, 12 pm
 First come, first served.
 For more information, please call (510) 652-1040.

This is a partial list and is informational only. If you have questions, please contact the listed organizations directly.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

THE CITY OF OAKLAND
HOLIDAY DINNER
 FREE

Monday, December 23, 2013
11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
 OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER
 1001 BROADWAY
 OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
 Holiday Turkey Feast
 Live Entertainment
 Free Transportation

For more information about this event or for general information on hunger and homeless programs, please call (510) 238-2077 or (510) 238-7416 (TDD).

Click here for a flyer:

http://www.acgov.org/board/district5/pdf/2013_Holiday_Flyer.pdf



At the December 17, 2013 Board of Supervisor meeting, Supervisor Carson honored Youth Radio for 20 years of serving the youth of the East Bay. Check out what they are up to at <https://youthradio.org/>.



Health Care for the Homeless Program

1900 Fruitvale Avenue, Suite 3E
 Oakland, CA 94601-2469
 TEL: (510) 532-1930
 FAX (510) 532-0963
 achcp@acgov.org
www.acphd.org/hchp.aspx
 David Modersbach, Director
 Damon Francis MD, Medical Director

**Winter Shelter Cold Weather Update
 Mid-December 2013**

In general, please call 211 first to see if there are shelter beds available anywhere.

Berkeley/Albany:

Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter by Dorothy Day House
 65 emergency beds. Contact: JC Orton, (510) 684-1892. Open only on stormy/cold nights. Dana St. between Channing and Durant from 7-10pm.

Operation Dignity/City of Albany has a mobile trailer/shelter available for people camped at the Albany Bulb. There are 22 men and 8 women's beds in two portables.

The YEAH shelter is for youth. YEAH is located in the Lutheran Church of the Cross at 1744 University Ave between Grant and McGee in Berkeley. Contact: (510) 704-9867.

Berkeley Food and Housing Project. Contact: (510) 649-4976

Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency. Contact: (510) 843-3700

Shelter hotline: 1-866-960-2132. Call at noon or later.

Oakland:

Oakland Winter Shelter is located at 559-16th St. in Oakland. Contact: (510) 238-5091.

City Team Ministries is located at 722 Washington St in Oakland. Contact: (510) 452-3758.

Senior Winter Shelter St. Mary's Senior Center is located at San Pablo and Brockhurst in Oakland. Contact: (510) 923-9600.



Save the Date – January 20th 2014

You are cordially invited to the
Third Annual Community Breakfast
 celebrating the life and legacy of
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Standing Together is a prerequisite in the pursuit of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Beloved Community". Just as those who valiantly came before us stood in places such as Montgomery, Birmingham, Selma, and Memphis to secure human dignity, we too stand together in an effort to achieve a reconciled world, creating an environment where justice prevails and individuals attain their full potential.

Join Faith, Community and Civic Leaders
January 20th 2014
8:00am—10:00am

At the:
HS Lordships, Berkeley Marina
 199 Seawall Drive, Berkeley

Tickets:
\$25 per person

For more info and to purchase tickets:
www.berkeleymlkjrday.com

Become a Sponsor

Local businesses and community organizations are invited to become a sponsor for the 3rd Annual Breakfast commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event will held on January 20, 2014 at the HS Lordships at the Berkeley Marina, attended by approximately 400 civic, faith, and community leaders, and over twenty youth. The theme is "Standing Together" which will focus on securing a hopeful and successful future for our youth and to promote peace, non-violence, justice, beloved and healthy communities.

Participate in this important community event through program sponsorship!

Please make sponsorship contributions payable to fiscal agent "Berkeley Chamber of Commerce Foundation" (with "MLK Jr. Breakfast" in memo field) at 1834 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94703. Indicate sponsorship level (\$500/\$1000/other.) Please contact Reverend Byron Williams at Resurrection Community Church, byron@byronspeaks.com for more information.

Gold Level Sponsorship

\$1,000 Donation
 Sponsor Name on Invitation (if by Dec 2)
 Sponsor Name on thank you slide and/or poster
 Sponsor Name in program
 Verbally thanked during program
 Name included as lead sponsor in any publicity
 Sponsor Name listed on website
 Two breakfast tickets

Silver Level Sponsorship

\$500 Donation
 Sponsor Name on Invitation (if by Dec 2)
 Sponsor Name on thank you slide and/or poster
 Sponsor Name in program
 Name included as sponsor in any publicity
 Sponsor Name listed on website
 One breakfast ticket



ALAMEDA COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR THE ARTS

*Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Free Grant Workshops Presented in January and
February 2014*

The Alameda County Arts Commission announces the release of the 2014 ARTSFUND Grants Program Application Packet for Alameda County-based nonprofit organizations. Information can be found at the Arts Commission website <http://acgov.org/arts> (click on "Programs"). Standard grants awards are \$1,000 each. The application deadline is March 5, 2014.

The ARTSFUND Grants Program supports all types of arts programming such as dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual arts, and multidisciplinary arts programs presented in Alameda County by Alameda County nonprofit organizations. Last year's ARTSFUND program awarded grants of \$1,000 to \$2,500 to 48 nonprofit organizations throughout Alameda County. During the 2014 funding cycle, between 40-50 arts organizations may be awarded grants. The Alameda County Arts Commission, a division of the County of Alameda, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Alameda County by nurturing a thriving environment for the arts, promoting economic opportunities for Alameda County's artists and arts organizations, and encouraging public participation in the arts.

The Arts Commission staff will host three free workshops to assist organizations in preparing their grant applications. Reservations are required. Workshops will be held on Wednesday, January 15 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library in Fremont; Wednesday, January 22 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Alameda County Lakeside Plaza Building in Oakland; and Wednesday, February 5 from 6:00 – 7:30pm at the Livermore Community Center, Livermore.

Job Opportunities

Organization: Alameda Point Collaborative
Position: Community Support Services Manager
Job Description: <http://www.acgov.org/board/district5/pdf/CommunitySupportMgr.pdf>

Organization: Rotary Club of Oakland
Position: Executive Director
Job Description: http://www.acgov.org/board/district5/pdf/Job_OakRotary13.pdf

Organization: County of Alameda
Position: Various
Website: <http://www.jobaps.com/alameda/>

Organization: City of Albany
Job Position: Various
Website: <http://albanyca.org/index.aspx?page=183>

Organization: City of Berkeley
Job Position: Various
Website: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/berkeley/default.cfm>

Organization: City of Emeryville
Job Position: Various
Website: <http://www.ci.emeryville.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=179>

Organization: City of Oakland
Job Position: Various
Website: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/oaklandca/default.cfm>

Contact the Arts Commission at artscommission@acgov.org or phone (510) 208-9646 to RSVP to attend a workshop at least seven days prior to the workshop date.

Ancestral Project...continued from p. 2

More than 300 East Bay youth have been touched by the Youth Ancestral Project, inspiring intergenerational dialogue, increased self-esteem, and a deeper sense of family identity.

In the fall of 2012, the project came to Berkeley's Midrasha, a weekend educational program for 8th–12th graders cosponsored by Congregation Beth El and nine other synagogues. Janice Sellers, an Oakland resident and expert in Jewish genealogy, led the students in weekly explorations of the meaning of family; interviewing and research skills; and personal identity in the multicultural, religiously diverse Bay Area.

In a session devoted to Internet research, soft-spoken 9th grader Zach sat down at the computer and typed in the name of his maternal grandmother, Jane Barthold. In the California Birth Index, a record popped up for Jane Scott Barthold, a woman born in San Francisco in



Youth from Midrasha in Berkeley, including Theo (far left), who participated in the Youth Ancestral Project (Courtesy of Midrasha in Berkeley).

1938. Although the listed day of her birth was a few days off from the date Zach was given by his mother, he thought he might have found his grandmother. Zach then tried finding her on the 1940 census, with no luck. “Maybe she doesn’t exist!” he joked.

In conversations with his father, Zach learned for the first time that his Jewish relatives emigrated from Belarus and his grandfather worked for Ford at a factory in Michigan.

In the closing session, Zach reported that he learned he could visit the Oakland History Room at the Oakland Public Library to dig deeper into his family story. “Are there apps for genealogy?” he asked. Janice and Project Coordinator Nicka Smith smiled and answered, “Oh,

yes!”

“This class got the students thinking about family, so they are now interested in passing on the stories family members have told them,” remarked Janice. “The research stimulated conversations between younger and older generations and a curiosity about heritage.”

In the Spring of 2013, high school students in the Life in Science City after-school program at Life Academy in East Oakland worked with their teacher Sam Garcia to develop an ancestral program that incorporated research about genetics and a youth-generated census of



Kailah Johnson-Bryant of McClymonds High School gives a presentation about her family history at a community event. (Courtesy of Nicka Smith, ns2photography).

their classmates.

After investigations into their own family history, students designed a survey that would create a snapshot of life in Oakland in 2013. The students carefully crafted questions about gender, race, family members, height, weight, eye and hair color, sexual orientation, health, social and sexual behavior, and educational plans. The young people implemented the anonymous survey through school-day science classes and plan to create a time capsule display in the new wing of their school to memorialize the results of their census for future family members and researchers.

The student leaders at McClymonds High School in West Oakland participated in the Youth Ancestral Project for the third time in Spring 2013 and took their projects to a whole new level. Many of the students took DNA tests to discover from what regions of the world their DNA originates.



A youth project (Courtesy of Nicka Smith, ns2photography).

“No matter where you go, as long as you are with your family, you are home,” shared Kailah Simone Johnson-Bryant, who discovered she is 86% African and the rest Asian and European. “There’s never a need for reunion because a little piece of them will always be with you.” Kailah discovered that her great grandfather Ambrose Johnson was born in Mississippi in 1918, became a radio technician and was chased out of the state in 1951 after he started helping Blacks register to vote.

For their final presentation, the McClymonds youth created a panoramic family history timeline in the dance studio at the McClymonds Youth and Family Center. Family and community members streamed through the exhibit, some quietly reading descriptions of family and historical events while others excitedly chatted about familiar photos.

Across the city at the Oakland Family Search Library and Family History Center, youth from the Alameda County Probation Department’s Weekend Training Academy arrive every other Saturday to perform community service and learn about their family history with the help of the friendly library volunteers. Although these youth, a diverse group from all around the County, have only two or three sessions to dig into their past, many of them have found surprising or valuable information about their families.

Project organizers are currently creating a documentary



BART Alert: Fare Increase January 1, 2014

Fares will increase by 5.2% beginning January 1, 2014. The average fare will only increase by 19 cents per ride. Please see the fare chart on the bulletin linked below.

The money raised by these fare increases will be dedicated to three top priority projects that will improve service for years to come. These projects are: purchasing new rail cars to replace BART’s aging fleet, a new train control system which will let BART run more trains more frequently, and a new facility to maintain the expanded fleet and handle increased capacity from the BART Silicon Valley extension.

For more information, please click here:

http://www.acgov.org/board/district5/pdf/BART_010114.pdf



AC Transit Service Changes Effective December 15, 2013

AC Transit recently announced new and improved service in Southern Alameda County. If you work, shop or live in Fremont or Newark, check out the link below for increased service to shopping areas, employment centers and BART stations:

http://www.acgov.org/board/district5/pdf/ACTrans_ServDec13.pdf

about the project and a curriculum that can be used by teachers, youth development professionals and after-school providers. Stay tuned for links to those resources!

For more information about the Youth Ancestral Project, please visit <http://keithcarson.org> and click on “Education.”



On December 4, 2013, the Black Elected Officials and Faith Based Leaders of the East Bay hosted their annual Community Recognition Awards at Everett and Jones in Oakland. Left to right: Michael Tubbs, Stockton City Councilmember and Keynote speaker; Victoria Jones (honoree); Aisha Knowles (MC); Gay Plair Cobb (honoree); Bill Riley, representing Bill Patterson (honoree). For more information, please visit <http://blackelectedandfaithleaders.org/>.



On December 3, 2013, our office co-hosted the Annual Holiday Party and Food Drive with Congresswoman Barbara Lee (not pictured), Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Senator Loni Hancock and Assemblymember Nancy Skinner. More than 250 community members attended and brought 1,064 pounds of food that was donated to the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

Breaking the Chains New Year's Eve Gala

Tuesday, December 31, 2013, 6:30 pm
Hilton, Oakland Airport
1 Hegenberger Road
Oakland, CA 94621

Today, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry on the globe. The trafficking of children as young as 12 years old is an especially acute problem in Oakland, which is known as an "origination" city. Join community members for this New Year's Eve Benefit Gala so we can help Love Never Fails, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and freedom of children on the streets of Oakland and the East Bay.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit:

<http://www.breakingthechainsgala.com/>



At the December 17, 2013 Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Carson presented a commendation congratulating the East Bay Children's Book Project for giving away their One Millionth Book. Left to right: Jean Hull, Jan Stamos, Ann Katz and Supervisor Carson.

**Subscribe to our
News and Updates!**

http://www.acgov.org/form_app/board/district5/involved.jsp

For more information visit:

<http://www.acgov.org/board/district5/>