

Save the date - Saturday, April 25, 2009

2009 African Goodwill Recognition Awards & Family Induction Ceremony

Ms. Carol Barton, Executive Chair Woman of African Focus Inc., (AFI) announced the 2009 African Goodwill Awards honorees and Inductees on Friday January 9, 2009 during the African Focus Incorporated executive meeting.

African Goodwill Awards ceremony celebrates the greatest quality of mankind -the inherent human spirit of giving. The event showcases the challenges and accomplishments of these men and women whose commitment in great measure have given hope to the poor in Africa, the Caribbean and in American inner cities.

The event also celebrates achievements in community service. The 2009 event will begin with an African Induction ceremony which sets the stage for a great and memorable celebration; featuring both contemporary and African beats that will leave you shaking your hips long after the event is over. In order not to miss this awesome event, please mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 25, 2009.**

While the event calls for celebration and awards, the main emphasis is on bringing communities and businesses together to continue the commitment in helping people in need. African Goodwill Awards recognizes the work of these great men and women in Africa, the Caribbean and the African American communities in the United States.

Mr. Uchenna Nworgu, founder and CEO of African Focus Inc., was asked recently about the objective of the Award Ceremony. He said” Our main purpose of hosting the African Goodwill

Awards is to recognize, appreciate and celebrate the goodwill and contributions made by individuals, churches, organizations and corporations in response to the humanitarian needs of the African people.”

AFI believes that hosting this event delivers a message of hope that touches hearts, lifts spirits, and inspires the community to participate in the efforts of helping the underprivileged. It is very important to us that you attend this year’s event and join us to say “**THANK YOU**” to all who have contributed to the goodwill of others.

**2009 AFRICAN GOODWILL AWARDS
VETERAN AUDITORIUM COMPLEX
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA
SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2009**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
310.676.7300**

Email: africanfocus@yahoo.com

Website: www.africanfocus.org



Save the date - April 25, 2009

2009 African Goodwill Recognition Awards

Honorees



Apostle Frederick K. C. Price
2009 Thy Brothers Keeper



Hope Foye
2009 Lifetime Achievement



Chaka Khan
2009 Ambassador of Goodwill



Dr. Deborrah Hyde
2009 Ambassador of Goodwill



Isaiah Washington
2009 Ambassador of Goodwill



Stephanie Okereke
2009 African Jewel Award



Mo'Nique Hicks
2009 Achievement & Goodwill Ambassador



Dr. John Oriji
Africa Tribute Award



Robin Sweet-Ransom
2009 Ambassador of Goodwill



Dr. Jonathan Nwomonoh
Africa Tribute Award



Isabelle Dickens
2009 Ambassador of Goodwill

2009 African Family Induction Ceremony

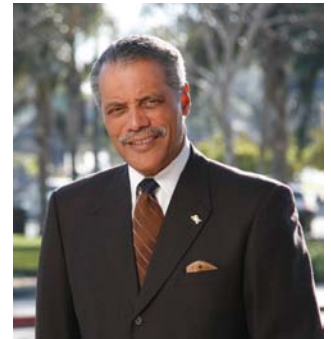
Inductees



Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas
Inductee - Cameroon



Jimmy Louise Jeans
Inductee - Cameroon



Councilman Bernard C. Parks
Inductee - Igbo, Nigeria



Capri Maddox
Inductee - Bini, Nigeria



Carl Ballton
Inductee - Igbo, Nigeria



Theresa Price
Inductee - Bini, Nigeria



Aundrey Coley
Inductee - Igbo, Nigeria



Dr. Edward Ridgill
Inductee - Igbo, Nigeria



Sherita Herrings
Inductee - Bini, Nigeria



Apostle Frederick Price

Thy Brothers' Keeper Award Honoree

Apostle Price is the founder of Crenshaw Christian Center (CCC) in Los Angeles, CA. In 1984 CCC outgrew its Inglewood facility and purchased Pepperdine University's former Los Angeles campus. Now the home of the FaithDome, with nearly 10,000 seats, it is one of the largest church sanctuaries in America. Current church membership totals over 22,000. People all over the world know of Apostle Price through the "Ever In creasing Faith" television and radio broadcasts, and teaching materials such as books and CDs. The program reaches more than 15 million households each week and airs in 15 of the 20 largest markets throughout the United States, according to Nielson ratings. Apostle Price is the author of some 50 books on faith, healing, prosperity, and the Holy Spirit. "How Faith Works" is a classic book on the operation of faith and its life-changing principles. He has sold over 2.1 million books since 1976.

The ministry, which celebrated its 35th anniversary, has very quietly and unassumingly impacted the continent of Africa. Christians all over the continent of Africa are grateful for being a part of the groundbreaking and life-changing teachings of the bible contained in Apostle Price's numerous Christian books that are still being sold all over the continent. His three volume series entitled "Race, Religion and Racism" is unprecedented and thought-provoking. The African people take pride in it. He has been and still is a father indeed and a senior statesman in ministry to many ministers of the gospel in the African countries. Many of them are currently members of the Fellowship of Inner-City Word of Faith Ministries, which was founded by Apostle Price, to unite ministers and to promote excellence and integrity in ministries all over the world. In addition, the Ever- In creasing Faith and Streaming Faith Broadcasts continue to be a blessing in Africa.



HER EXCELLENCY
DAME PATIENCE GOODLUCK JONATHAN
Wife Of the Vice president, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Her Excellency Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan Wife of the Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR & AMBASSADOR OF GOODWILL

Though, the wife of the Vice President, Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan is no stranger to humanitarian work. Her contributions to the life of youths and women in Bayelsa State when her husband was the governor was commendable and because of her unbridled quest towards alleviating the suffering of the less privileged in the state, she set up a pet project: Aruera Reach Out Foundation in 2006. The Programme was targeted at instilling the spirit of self reliance to the mothers and the youths in the Niger Delta. The number of people who benefited from the program by acquiring new and sustainable entrepreneurship skills is the hallmark of her success.

As a role model who drives pleasure in sharing with people (of all manners) without discrimination, her humane gesture has cut across all the sections of the society as she tenaciously clings unto her pet foundation. With all sense of humanity, she had extended hands of fellowship to many including the widows, eprosy and tuberculosis center, federal medical center in Bayelsa states, orphanage homes where she donated gifts and food items and included scholarship scheme for orphans up to tertiary level.

Dame Patience Jonathan's vision to charity has been like a hobby which could be seen in her daily activities including her supportive programmes packaged towards the needy and the empowerment of Nigerian women, especially when her husband was the Governor of Bayelsa State in the Niger Delta. Ordinarily, when one gets to the top, one is bound to relax, unlike Her Excellency, the higher she goes the more she extend her tentacles of compassion to put smiles on the faces of those who come her way, to proof her religious upbringing. *(full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)*



**CHAKA KHAN:
(Ambassador of Goodwill)**

From the moment she burst onto the music scene as the lead singer of the multi-racial band Rufus in the early 70s, Chaka Khan's all-powerful voice, show-stopping stage presence and style created a standard that set her apart from any other singer before or after her. Nearly 35 years later, Chaka is a legendary music icon whose influence has impacted whole generations of hit-making contemporary artists. In 1999, Chaka Khan established the Chaka Khan Foundation, it's most recent initiative involves a partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School district mentoring middle school students who are college-bound. Of her work with the Foundation and her other philanthropic endeavors Chaka simply says, "It's time to build up and time to give back." Her commitment to women and children at risk is seen through her countless hours of dedication to the Chaka Khan Foundation. The foundation also provides much needed support for the underserved minority families dealing with autism. The program includes free educational conferences, access to autism professionals, parent mentoring and information about available family resources. The foundation also works with middle school students in Los Angeles School District 7 (the Watts/Compton area) through it's Chaka Believes program that targets kids in at-risk communities to assist them in raising their achievement levels in school and helping them go on to college by providing scholarships and on going workshops for both students and parents throughout the school year. Recent workshops have included Making Fitness Fun with Billy Blanks, All About the Opera with Dr. Dee, a holiday visit to the Los Angeles Opera's production of Hansel & Gretel, community service days, and financial planning classes for parents. Ms. Khan believed "My life has come full circle because of the Chaka Khan Foundation. I am fortunate enough to be able to help women and children to find the courage to overcome their hardships and realize their dreams." **(Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**



HOPE FOYE

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Hope Foye is a critically acclaimed soprano vocalist, classically trained with substantial international credits in the areas of opera, philharmonic concerts, folk, jazz, musical standards and religious spirituals. Born into extremely humble beginnings in Connecticut in 1921, Hope's voice and tenacious spirit propelled her from Connecticut to New York to Mexico, to Switzerland, Israel, Germany and back to the United States. Hope fluently speaks, reads and writes English, Spanish and German as well as performs in Italian and two indigenous languages of Mexico. She has been the recipient of three Rockefeller Grants to study music abroad. Literally, volumes of newspaper articles have been written about Hope's talents, relating her almost 'extra human abilities' from performances in Mexico, Europe, Israel and the United States.

In the 1940s, in the music community of New York City, Hope was identified and groomed to become THE Black vocalist to integrate the Metropolitan Opera. This was no small fete. Certainly Hope had a natural gift, a talented voice but it took years of training arrive at that point. However, on the appointed day, the representative from the Met refused to even acknowledge Hope despite her undeniably talented voice. It became clear that America's most prestigious opera house was not going to integrate at that moment in time. Hope had to use her talent in other venues. She performed on and off Broadway and sang at New York's famous clubs such as Café Society and the Village Vanguard. However, Hope was classically trained and wanted to perform in that classical genre which was denied to her. **(Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**

Hope Foye photo by Eddie Milla





M. Deborrah Hyde, M.D

Ambassador of Goodwill Honoree

Dr. M. Deborrah Hyde is a pioneering force in the field of neurosurgery. By beating the odds, breaking the glass ceiling and choosing a road less traveled by females in the field of medicine, Hyde has become well regarded in her field. In 1985, she became the nation's second African American female brain surgeon, and even today, she is one of only one hundred and eighty female neurosurgeons in the nation. There are less than ten African American female neurosurgeons in the nation of which only four are board certified.

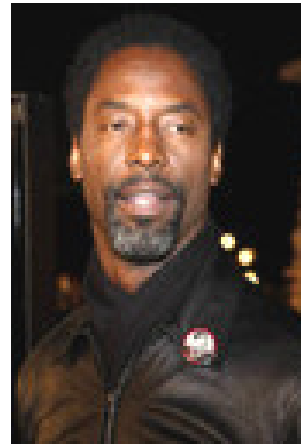
Neurosurgery is a specialty so competitive and grueling, that only a few are called. But for Hyde, medicine is much more than what you see on such hit television shows like "Grey's Anatomy," "ER" or "Private Practice." For her, it's a calling.

Young, Gifted and Black

Hyde was the valedictorian of her high school graduating class in small town Laurel, Mississippi. Upon graduation, she received a bachelor's degree in biology from Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi and a master's degree in biology from the Cleveland State University in Ohio. Hyde finished her medical education at Case Western Reserve Medical School in Cleveland, Ohio and earned election into the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha medical honorary society, which awards only the top 25 percent of each medical school's graduating class nationwide.

Because of her chosen specialty in neurosurgery – i.e. brain surgery – she was the first female and only African American resident in neurosurgery at University Hospitals in Ohio from 1977 to 1982. During her residency, she learned to perform surgery on the brain, spine and peripheral nerves. While a chief resident, she performed one of the most challenging surgeries in her career – that is, removing a brain tumor the size of a grapefruit from a former paratrooper. A very tricky and complicated procedure, it took 26 hours, a hope and a prayer. As hope faded in the operating room, Hyde refused to give up. She kept the faith, and with patience and a steady hand, she removed most of the tumor and saved the patient's life. That experience taught her a valuable life lesson about the resiliency of the human spirit and believing in miracles. When she completed her residency at Case Western Reserve Medical School

in 1982, she was not only the program's first female graduate, but the first African American as well. For five years, she practiced at Guthrie Clinic and the Robert Packer Hospital which served as a referral service for forty surrounding counties in New York and Pennsylvania. In 1985, Hyde became the country's second African-American woman certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery. *(full text will be printed on the 2009 Event souvenir book)*



Isaiah Washington

Ambassador of Goodwill Honoree

Award-winning actor and philanthropist Isaiah Washington has created many memorable characters in both television and film; most recently seen on A&E's "The Cleaner", NBC's "Bionic Woman" and can next be

seen in the film HURRICANE SEASON starring Forest Whitaker. Isaiah is also founder and chairman of The Gondobay Manga Foundation, a non-profit committed to improving the lives of the people of Sierra Leone.

Whether in his professional life as an actor and producer or his personal role as a husband, father and activist, Isaiah Washington passionately commits himself to all ventures. As an actor, critics have lauded Isaiah's ability to effortlessly disappear into each role; allowing the audience to become acquainted with the multifaceted nature of the character. He most recently appeared as Dr. Keith Bowen in A&E's "The Cleaner", and will next star in the film, HURRICANE SEASON starring Forest Whitaker. As a producer, Isaiah has championed a variety of projects, which fulfill his vision to enlighten the human imagination and experience through his production company, Coalhouse Productions. As a philanthropist, he uses his resources and notoriety to aide people in need both at home and abroad, founding his own non-profit organization, The Gondobay Manga Foundation, for his work in Sierra Leone, West Africa. It is his fervor for his craft and humanity that drives Isaiah's dedication to both entertaining the public and effecting change in the world.





Mon'que Hicks

Achiever & Ambassador

Mo'Nique is an award-winning comedienne whose career began 20 years ago in her hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. She took to the stage for the first time on a dare from her brother. The overwhelming response and standing ovation she received gave her the courage to pursue a comedy career professionally. From there, she gained visibility and immense popularity with performances on "Showtime at the Apollo," HBO's "Def Comedy Jam," "Apollo Comedy Hour" HBO's "Snaps," BET's "Comic View," The Montreal Comedy Festival and Uptown Comedy Club. Mo'Nique credits her big break as the day she quit her job at the phone company in Baltimore to pursue her comedy dream wholeheartedly. Another pivotal career break came in 1999 when she landed a starring role as Nikki Parker on the hit UPN television series, "The Parkers." During the show's five year run, in which she starred as a single mom who attends college with her daughter, Mo'Nique earned numerous awards, including four NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series in 2001, 2002, 2004 and 2005, and received nominations all five years of the show's existence. Since then, Mo'Nique has made memorable guest appearances on shows like, "The Game," "Nip/Tuck," "The View," and hosted the popular BET Awards where her opening dance performance brought down the house.

Film credits include the upcoming Lee Daniels movie *Push*, *Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins*, *Farce of the Penguins*, *Beerfest*, *Shadowboxer*, *Phat Girlz*, *Domino*, *Soul Plane*, *Hair Show*, *Three Strikes*, *Baby Boy*, and *Two Can Play That Game* which earned her a NAACP Image Award Nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture, and the Showtime tele-film *Good Fences*, opposite Whoopi Goldberg. She is also a New York Times best selling author with her books *Sinny Women Are Evil: Notes of a Big Girl in a Small-Minded World* and *Skinny Cooks Can't Be Trusted*. This year, she released a teen book called *Beacon Hills High*, which was just nominated for an NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Literary Work for Youth/Teens.

(Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)



Stephanie Okereke

African Jewel Honoree

A-List Nollywood Actress Stephanie Okereke's tenacity, wit, intelligence, grace and natural acting abilities has earned her a reputation as one of the best actresses on the African continent and in Nollywood, the third largest film industry in the world.

A graduate of English and Literal studies, Okereke made her first venture into film in 1997. By 2003, she won the Reel Awards "Best Actress" award for her role in the movie "Emotional Crack." In 2005, she was a nominee for the Africa Movie Academy Awards [AMAA]. On her way to AMAA, however, tragedy struck when she was involved in a terrible car accident that left her with a broken leg and burns on her face and hands. Okereke, with a fighting and determined spirit, bounced back and by 2006, she won the Afro-Hollywood Awards, Film Makers USA Award for Excellence with subsequent awards in 2007 for the Miriam Makeba Award for Excellence and 2008 Beyond the Tears Humanitarian Awards for her work against rape and vesico vaginal fistula and HIV/AIDS.

Not satisfied with being just an actress and wanting to create a voice and other roles for African women in Africa's film industry, Okereke came to the United States to study film at the New York Film Academy at Universal Studios, Los Angeles. Armed with her knowledge, intelligence, determination and creativity, Okereke established her Production company "Next Page Productions" and has recently expanded her portfolio to include the titles of director, writer and producer in her first feature Hollywood-Nollywood film hybrid, "Through the Glass," creating what she hopes is a preview of the direction and roles African women will embrace in the film industry.





Robin Sweet-Ransom

Ambassador of Goodwill Honoree

Robin Sweet-Ransom is an outstanding person who has demonstrated her love for her immediate family, Africa and her work family at Toyota. Robin is the proud wife of Cedric Ransom and doting mother of 7 year-old Raven Ransom. She has been employed with Toyota Motor Sales as an Executive Assistant for 10 years. In this capacity, she competently assists her department to seamlessly complete their assignments, while at the same time facilitating large team-building events. She also works closely with Toyota's Diversity & Inclusion Department as Vice-Chair of the African-American Collaborative (an organization she helped to launch at Toyota's headquarters in January, 2007), which focuses on the recruitment, retention and development of African-Americans in Toyota. Additionally, Robin has been instrumental in planning and implementing educational Black History Months for Toyota associates. In the process of educating during recent Black History months, Robin has ensured all Toyota associates, especially African-American, celebrate their progress in the United States.

Robin, ordained as an Evangelist in June, 2008, was motivated by her strong love for Jehovah, Jesus Christ & The Holy Spirit to spread their love abroad. **She recently fulfilled a lifelong desire and went to Kenya in September, 2007.** She spent a lot of time getting to know the needs and aspirations of many people from the cities to the villages (**Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book**)



Dr. Jonathan Nwomoh

(African Tribute Award & Ambassador of Goodwill

Dr. Nwomoh is a professor emeritus at Cal State University LA. A resident of Los Angeles, Chief Nwomoh earned a BA in Government from Cal State University in Los Angeles, an M.P.A in Public Administration and an MS in Education from USC. His first Ph.D. is in Urban Development from USIU and a second Ph.D. in Government from Claremont Graduate University.

Ichie Nwomoh is a political scientist, an author, educator, a socialite, a community activist and organizer, and an advocate of cultural education and Third World Development. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including *"The Role of Traditional Leadership in Political Development"*, *"The Role of Women in Political Development"*, and *"Agricultural Policy and Production in Sub-Saharan Africa: Problem and Prospects"*. Most notably, he authored and edited Education and Development in Africa: A Contemporary Survey.

Professor Nwomoh works with various Third World groups, including African children, men and women groups in the Los Angeles basin. At CSULA, he introduced courses on African affairs. His outreach children / teen programs include African languages and camp. Since 2005, Professor Nwomoh has placed Igbo Language on American Higher Education online. He is the President of the African World Foundation, Inc. and serves on the Boards of seven community organizations, including the African Advisory Council of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History and the Igbo Cultural Association of Southern California.. (**Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book**)

Business Solutions Inc.

A Forward Moving Enterprise

FOR ALL YOUR BUSINESS & PERSONAL TAX NEEDS

Phone: 562-622-6025



Dr. John Oriji

(African Tribute Award & Ambassador of Goodwill)

Dr. Oriji is currently a Professor of African History at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo. He held a similar position at the Institute of African Studies and Department of History, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) before taking up a teaching appointment in the US in 1987. Professor Oriji holds two Masters Degrees from the John Hopkins University & Rutgers University respectively, and a Ph. D from Rutgers University. He has in his highly distinguished career as an educationist, scholar and community leader, inspired many Africans and the African Diaspora to take pride in their rich cultural heritage, and fly like eagles imbued with optimism and towering dreams.

As in his community, Prof Oriji has made excellent contributions to research and scholarship. Two of his books entitled, *Ngwa History and Traditions of Igbo Origins* currently in their 2nd editions, are ranked among the best sellers in African history and culture. He has authored over 35 articles in professional journals and chapters of books covering a wide spectrum of topics including oral traditions; the Tran-Atlantic slave trade and its impacts in Africa and the Americas; colonialism; the Aba Women's Revolt in Nigeria, and governance in traditional and modern African societies. Prof Oriji is currently working on two book projects entitled, *A History of Igbo Political Systems* and *A History of Africa and the African Diaspora*. The academic awards he has received include the State of California Faculty Research Grant, the Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts Grant and the Gilman Fellowship.

In spite of his busy academic schedule, Prof Oriji finds some time to serve in university committees that promote the interests of minorities at Cal Poly. He is a member of the University Diversity Council, and the Allenworth Program, mentoring black students in the university. Prof Oriji also currently serves as a Board member of the African Focus Inc, and the African Healthcare Development Foundation inc. Dallas. While at UNN, Prof Oriji helped many qualified Ngwa students to gain admission to the university, and some of them are currently serving as lawyers, high court judges, teachers and principals of schools, medical doctors, and top public and civil servants. **(Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**



Isabelle Dickens

2009 Ambassador of Goodwill Honoree

Isabelle Dickens: Founder of El Shaddai Ministry: A ministry that reaches inner cities of Inglewood and Los Angeles as well as Africa.

The name "El Shaddai is one of the many Hebrew names used to describe God. This name is significant because it brings to mind the fact that God manifests Himself as a provider for all our needs. El Shaddai means even more for Mrs. Dickens, it encapsulates a message she communicates through her mission.

Mrs. Dickens foundation "El Shaddai Better Living and Wellness Center" dates back to 1965 when as a registered nurse with great foresight saw a way to teach others how to get healthy and remain healthy. At this time Isabelle began teaching the Adventist health message in evangelistic tent meetings every summer in the Los Angeles inner city areas. Her areas of expertise were nutrition classes, healthy cooking, smoking cessation, and practicing a good health regimen. Since 1989, Mrs. Dickens has taken El Shaddai Ministries to Africa teaching women, men and children disease prevention, principles of good health, and how to use clean water and local herbs to treat common ailments. She has carried her message to Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Botswana, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi, Uganda and the island of Madagascar and Mauritius.

For a number of years El Shaddai operated from an old building near the University of Southern California (USC) campus. Isabelle and her able team of Volunteers counseled children, teenagers in crisis, married couples and families. She is deeply concerned with the community's exposure to violence, drugs, sex, and their impact on the young people. In the year 2006, El shaddai Better Living and Wellness Center was relocated to 3425 West Manchester Boulevard, Inglewood. The mission is the same, as a 52 years experience nurse practitioner, mental health counselor and a school nurse with a renewed sense of outreach commitment, she sets out to equip community members with the skills needed to provide a better life for themselves and their loved ones. She teaches communication and listening skills, parenting skills, health and nutrition classes. She also teaches prevention of gangs, teen pregnancy and HIV and AIDS and related diseases. **(Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**

2009 AFRICAN FAMILY INDUCTEES

One of the many highlights of the 2009 event is the African Family Induction Ceremony meant to initiate eminent African Americans into various African families, communities in different African Countries.

African Family Induction Ceremony serves as a conduit through which the artificial barriers that exist between Africans and their relatives in the Diaspora may be erased. The Induction Ceremony lays a foundation for the formation of a new African family that is inclusive of our cousins outside the geographical boundaries of current African continent, one that is based on mutual respect and love. These families and their larger communities are among the most dynamic and rich cultures of the African Continent. Induction is not based on class or position rather ones ancestral ties to Africa.



Carl A. Ballton

(Inductee - Igbo - Nigeria)

Carl Ballton is senior vice president and community development officer within the Corporate Social Responsibility Group of Union Bank of California, N. A. (Union Bank). He also serves as president and chief operating officer of the Union Bank of California Foundation. In this position, Ballton is responsible for implementing the charitable contribution policies and initiatives of both the Bank and Foundation.

In 2007, the Union Bank of California contributed more than \$14.5 million as part of its commitment to reinvest at least 4.5 percent of assets back into the community. The Union Bank Foundation grants focused primarily on community economic development, affordable housing, and education. In 2008 the Bank and Foundation continue to direct charitable grants and financial assistance to nonprofit organizations that enhance the quality of life, especially among low to moderate-income communities, as well as to promote public interest in the areas where the bank conducts its business. Receiving his B.A. from Occidental College, and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Ballton is active with numerous civic and community organizations. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries of Southern California, Abode Communities, California Community Reinvestment Corporation, and the Los Angeles Urban League. **(Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**



Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

(Inductee - Cameroon)

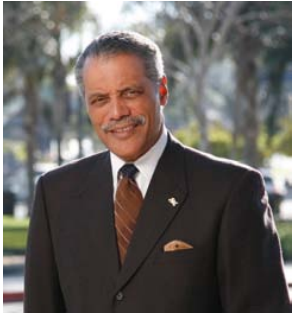
He was overwhelmingly elected Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Second District on November 4, 2008. With nearly 2.3 million people, the Second District includes Carson, Compton, Culver City, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood and Lynwood, portions or all of ten out of fifteen Los Angeles City Council Districts and the unincorporated communities, of Alondra Park, Athens, Del Aire, Dominguez, East Compton, El Camino Village, Florence, Ladera Heights, Lennox, View Park, West Athens, West Carson, West Compton and Willowbrook. Against the backdrop of a nationally historic election, voters of the Second District made their own mark on history by electing the first African American male ever to serve on the County Board of Supervisors.

Prior to his election to the Board, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas served the 26th District in the California State Senate where he chaired the Senate's Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development and its two subcommittees on Professional Sports and Entertainment, and The Economy, Workforce Preparation and Development. In addition to his chairmanship duties, Ridley-Thomas served on the Senate Appropriations, Energy, Utilities and Communications, Health and Public Safety committees.

In January 2008, he became Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus and led the Caucus in unprecedented levels of cooperation and collaboration with counterparts in the Latino, and Asian-Pacific Islander Legislative Caucuses.

His legislative work addressed a broad range of issues with implications for economic and workforce development, health care, public safety, education, budget accountability, consumer protection and civic participation. (See here for legislative accomplishments).

Mark Ridley-Thomas was first elected to public office in 1991 and served with distinction on the Los Angeles City Council for nearly a dozen years and departing as Council President pro Tempore. He later served two terms in the California State Assembly, where he chaired the Assembly Democratic Caucus. **(Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**



Councilmember Bernard C. Parks

(Inductee, Igbo - Nigeria)

Councilman Chief Bernard C. Parks is serving his second term as Los Angeles City Councilmember for the Eighth Council District. One of the most densely populated areas in South Los Angeles, Parks represents over 250,000 people. During his first year in office he was appointed Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee and to the Coliseum Commission where he has led the charge to return a National Football League team to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Currently, Councilmember Parks sits on the Public Safety Committee, where he is committed to improving community safety for the constituents in South Los Angeles. It is Parks' belief that public safety involves preventing, reducing or containing the social and environmental factors that negatively impact people's right to live without fear of crime.

In addition, Parks sits on the Claims Board, Ad - Hoc Stadium Committee, Transportation Committee, Board of Referred Powers and the Transportation Committee where he serves as Vice Chair. Following the 2005 Mayoral election, he was appointed to the Metropolitan Transportation Board of Commissioners by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

As Councilmember, Parks has implemented many programs to enrich the South Los Angeles area including the Prevention Intervention and Education (PIE) program at Crenshaw High School. The PIE program works to bridge the gap between black and brown students through various school assemblies and noteworthy speakers. Parks has also created an annual Youth Jobs and Career Fair where at least 20 youths were interviewed for jobs during its first year.

On the Council floor, Parks has been extremely successful in delivering legislation that benefits his constituents in the 8th district, including the temporary closure of the cul-de-sac at 84th Place and Flower Street. The cul-de-sac was a breeding ground for illegal activity and was located in a residential area specifically impacting families with small children. In addition, Councilmember Parks spearheaded the effort that ensured that a portion of the gasoline sales tax revenues owed to the city were explicitly used to improve the quality of life for motorists by directing \$800,000 to pave five miles of dirt alleys and \$200,000 to construct 90 to 100 additional approved, but unfunded speed humps. Parks also created a city-wide ordinance that imposed regulations on the issuance of

permits that included the following businesses: automobile sales, auto repair shops, junk yards, and recycling materials and processing facilities. *(full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)*

SCENES FROM PAST INDUCTION CEREMONY



Nywa Dancers during the ceremony 2007 Ethiopian Induction



Jimmy Jean Louis

Inductee - Cameroon

Jimmy led a simple life in a remote village in Haiti until the age of twelve, when he moved to Paris. He has worked in musical theatre in Spain, spending three years with a musical theater "La Belle Epoque", and has had a successful career as an interna-

tional model. Jimmy moved to Los Angeles in 1998 and immediately started honing his chosen craft by lending his abilities to underground and independent films. That eventually led to him landing a role in Jean Claude Van Damme's "Derailed", which set the stage for subsequent roles with other Hollywood A-listers. He went on to shoot "Tears of the sun" with Bruce Willis and Monica Belluci, "Hollywood Homicide" with Harrison Ford and Josh Hartnet, "Monster-in-law" with Jane Fonda and Jennifer Lopez and "The Miracle match" with Patrick Stewart, Wes Bentley and Gerard Butler. Most recently, he played the lead role in "Phat Girlz" starring opposite Monique Imes Jackson as her love interest.. **(See full biography in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**



Theresa Randle-Price Inductee, Bini - Nigeria)

Theresa Randle-Price has been the owner of two companies for more than 9 years. Juggling her full service marketing firm, Jabez 3 Enterprises, Inc, and producing the Black College Expo throughout the country, has been an incredibly challenging, yet rewarding, time for her. In order for both ventures to run smoothly, she often dedicates more hours than there are in a day, to each. Ms. Randle-Price has a foundation of over 20 years of experience in advertising, sales, marketing, and promotions. Theresa was born in Compton, California, where she attended El Segundo Elementary, Vanguard Junior High, and later Gardena High School. She graduated with a BA in Broadcast/Journalism, with a minor in Speech Communications from Cal State Long Beach. **(Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**



Sherita Herring

(Inductee, Bini - Nigeria)

As a radio personality and the Founder and President of the Kreative Images Foundation (K.I.) Sherita Herring's expertise spans world-wide, as she helps to sustain local and international

organizations in Australia, Belgium, China, France, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, and other countries, while also aiding environmental agencies deep in the rainforests of Central America.

She has personally helped secure millions of dollars for community-based organizations. As a renowned speaker and community strategist, Sherita is continuously featured in news and magazine publications, and on radio and television shows nationwide providing strategies for self-empowerment, grant procurement, and community and economic development. Additionally, Ms. Herring has accomplished the following, just to name a few: **(Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**



Dr. Edward Ridgill

(Inductee - Igbo, Nigeria)

Dr. Ridgill was born on September 26, 1952 in Los Angeles, California. He is the second son of Charles and Eunice Ridgill of Virginia. Charles, Jr. is the oldest son, Calvin is the younger brother, and Bernice is the only sister and the youngest child. Dr. Ridgill's father, Charles Ridgill, Sr., met Eunice Sykes in the late 1940's at Hampton Institute, a historically black college established soon after the end of slavery in Virginia. Both are college graduates, Charles, Sr. with a degree in accounting and Eunice with a degree in nursing. After graduation in 1948 they both left the South to move to Los Angeles, California to begin careers and a family.

The Ridgill ancestry traces its traces it's roots to Africa. Tribal roots and region of origin are unknown. Dr. Ridgill's family tree is long established in America and their blood has fertilized its soil for 250 years, since before the American Revolution and independence. The first recorded trace of Ridgill paternal

ancestry in America is a slave plantation in South Carolina in 1830 AD. The Ridgill name is that of the slave owner of Scottish descent. Dr. Ridgill's mother's maiden name is Sykes. Maternal ancestry traces from Africa to Virginia in 1760 where the slave name was bestowed. A noted Sykes ancestor in Virginia is the liberator Nat Turner who led an infamous slave rebellion, which bear his name, in Virginia in 1830. Subsequently, after slavery, generations of Sykes went on to be large landowners in Virginia, ultimately gaining ownership of the land, which holds the very tree upon which the U.S. Marines subsequently hanged the captured Nat Turner after the slave rebellion, was suppressed.

Education has always been a priority on both sides of the Ridgill and Sykes families. Our ancestors have acquired college educations since the end of slavery. Dr. Ridgill was educated in predominantly black elementary and secondary schools in South Central Los Angeles graduating from Crenshaw High School in 1970. Dr. Ridgill pursued a degree in Microbiology at the University of Washington in Seattle from 1970 through 1974. During the college years Dr. Ridgill was a community activist involved in black liberation politics and opposition to the Vietnam War. Dr. Ridgill founded and established the first people's free Health Clinic in Seattle with the Black Panther Party of America. **(See full biography in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**



Capri Maddox
(Inducted - Bini, Nigeria)

As a Deputy City Attorney, Mrs. Maddox serves as the Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Wilshire Police Area. The general boundaries for her service area are: LaCienega Boulevard to the West, Normandie Avenue to the East, Beverly Boulevard to the North and the 10 Freeway to the South. Mrs. Maddox implements strategies to reduce quality-of-life crimes, such as trespassing, illegal gambling, prostitution, drinking in public, vandalism, problem nightclubs and nuisance properties. In her capacity as a Neighborhood Prosecutor, Mrs. Maddox works with community groups, local law enforcement, elected officials and other service providers to design effective crime prevention strategies. She aggressively prosecutes offenders, and has successfully implemented creative sentencing to provide the maximum benefit to area residents.

Prior to joining the Office of the City Attorney, Mrs. Maddox served as a consultant in a local public affairs firm. In that role, she created campaign strategies and provided public relation services both for private and public entities. Mrs. Maddox has also served as Community Development and Housing Analyst for the City of Glendale where she implemented numerous community improvement projects in partnership with local non-profits. Mrs. Maddox began her public service career in 1992 at the Los Angeles Housing Department as Project Manager, where she created programs and obtained resources to revitalize blighted communities. **(See full biography in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**



Audrey Coley

Inducted - Igbo, Nigeria)

Audrey Coley was born in Jamaica, West Indies. She successfully completed Teachers' College and subsequently graduated from the University of the West Indies (Mona Campus), where she majored in Television Production. She taught junior high school for ten years before going on to work for the national TV station, first as a Researcher/Scriptwriter and then as a Producer/Director. In 1987, she migrated to Los Angeles, California to pursue her career in the TV industry.

Audrey met her husband, Donald Coley, in Los Angeles. The happily married couple has three children (Lisa, Courtney and Candice) and three grandchildren (Kevin, Nicholas and Sayjah). Audrey, along with her husband, Donald, participate in a number of civic philanthropic activities. For the past five years they have directed and supported an annual golf tournament to raise thousands of dollars for the Jamaica Awareness Association of California and the Caribbean Health Organization for the purpose of sponsoring a medical team of approximately twenty doctors and nurses who provide health screenings, medical attention and supplies to needy communities throughout Jamaica. The Coley's are avid golfers. They support many local fundraising golf tournaments and have won several trophies from organizations such as H.B. Barnum Adopt-A-Senior Celebrity Golf Tournament, The Caribbean Health Outreach Annual Golf Tournament, The Jamaica Awareness Association of California Annual Golf Tournament, Consolidated Realty Board Golf Tournament, Inglewood/Airport Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament. **(Full text will be printed in the 2009 Event souvenir book)**

ENTERTAINMENT CORNER



Douye

Douye: is a breath of fresh air when you listen to this sensational singer who has been compared with Shade as well as Anita Baker. While her music is getting a lot air time in major radio stations, you will have the opportunity to see her on stage. Asked, how she feel about performing at the African Goodwill Awards and Family Induction she said “ I will do anything to uplift my African people no matter where they are”



International Christian Center Choir will return to minister at the 09 award due to popular demand of their uplifting ministration in 2007 award. Many thanks to Dr. Oladipo & Nonie Kalejaiye, founders & pastors of ICC.

King Rancho & The New Wave Band and African All Stars representing the finest of musicians from Africa, Caribbean and America coming together to give this event a remarkable entertainment.

African Focus, Incorporated
 AFI News
 8221 3rd Street, Suite 407A
 Downey, CA 90241
 Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 1876
 Hawthorne, CA 90251
 Telephone: 310-676-7300
 E-Mail: agra@africanfocus.org
 Website:
www.africanfocus.org

AFI Management Board

Uchenna Nworgu, Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Emmily Alexander, Co-Founder

& President HomeComing Study in Africa Program

Sam Obeng, Chief Financial Officer

Carol Forbes-Barton, Chair, Executive Management Committee

Patrick Anyawoke, Executive Secretary

A: Melvin Stringer, V.P. clear essence Cosmetics & Chikezie Eze

B: Bishop Charles Blake & Prof. Gwen Marie-Thomas

C: General View of Guest Setting Area.

D: 2007 Mss Nigeria in America & ChiChi Dike, CEO of Miss Nigeria Pageant

E: Princess Ogbunamir & Frances De Loach (2008 Inductee)

F: Late Mary Ann Mitchell being inducted by Ezeanioma Family

SNAPSHOTS FROM PAST EVENTS



A



B



C



D



E



F