

The Southwesterner Southwest Sectional Newsletter

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National Association of University Women - Southwest Section

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Our Motto is Have A BLAST
B = better
LA = larger, and
ST = stronger



Greetings my NAUW sisters.

I have had the opportunity to attend several activities since the Sectional Conference. The South Bay Branch is to be commended for the outstanding job they did on hosting the 43rd conference. It was well planned and organized. They had full participation by the membership. We salute the chairpersons, Mary Jackson – Freeny, Geraldine Perry and Cherita Mc Frazier along with the President Hattie Mc Frazier.

I went to Seattle February 14, to try once again to start a branch. I met with 10 ladies who all seemed interested. The final sign up was only one person. We now have 3 members at-large in Seattle.

The Founders Day program on March 5, lead by our Lay member Dr Essie French – Preston, went on without a flaw. We had a nice attendance of 65 persons. Picture of the event will be put up on the website.

I attended the Women's History Program at El Camino College, Compton Educational center on March 26th. A large number of students were in attendance. We had some who acted as room monitors and West Coast Cities bought and hosted the refreshments for breakfast. They had speakers and workshops. Dr. Essie French – Preston organized the event. I think this is something we should work with on an ongoing basis.

On the same day as the history program Inglewood Branch had their Red Dress day in conjunction with the Inglewood School District. They had a great number of students and parents in attendance.

On April 8th we interview some long time members of the South Bay Branch. They were Lillie Scott, Mary Brown and Bernice Shannon. They give us some history of the branch.

The Inglewood Branch also had their Scholarship Fundraiser at the Proud Bird Restaurant on April 16th. They had a number of their former recipients in attendance. The program included a dramatic presentation.

South Bay Branch held their Spotlight on youth on April 17, 2011. They had many talented young people on the program.

Audrey F. Jordan,
Southwest Sectional Director

National theme - Community and Education: Our Connection for the Future

FROM THE DESK OF THE SOUTHWEST LAY MEMBER DR. ESSIE FRENCH PRESTON



News Briefings on the Southwest Sectional Conference February 5-6, 2011, and other Branch events:

As lay member of the Southwest Section, I would like to congratulate all of the Branches for the great job that is being conducted in your respective communities.

- By Laws updates were distributed to all branch presidents and to everyone who attended the Sectional Conference
- Founders Day celebration took place Saturday, March 5, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Torrance; the event was well received.
- The scholarship Luncheon was held during the Sectional Conference on Saturday, February 5, 2011. The scholarship recipient Tania Smith received \$1,000. To pursue her Masters degree in Business Administration. Dr. Essie French Preston, Southwest Lay Member
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Photos from the In the Spirit of Women Conference



Photo#1 Audrey Jordan, Photo # 2 At microphone Dr. Essie French Preston and Photo #3 Members of the West Coast Cities Branch & Pamela Foster President

“In the Spirit of Women” Conference

Report by Billie Frierson

In celebration of Women’s History Month the El Camino College Compton Center presented: **In the Spirit of Women Conference** on March 26, 2011 at the Compton Campus, 1111 E. Artesia Blvd, Compton, CA. The conference was sponsored by the Child Development Department, TANF-CDC Works, the Associated Student Body, Office of Student Life, CALWORKs, EOP &S, CTE Communications, The Social & Behavioral Science Department, the Office of Student Services Financial Aid, and the National Association of University Women. Each organization and department united for success of the conference.

Ensuring an outstanding start were five women who chose to serve at the registration table: Felecia Hatten, Brenda Donaldson and Linda Coleman (Compton Campus staff/faculty) with Jewel Hoof and Marva Logan who are both Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society students & future June 2011 graduates. They were organized and thoroughly prepared to welcome and register nearly 250 students and women from the community for the conference in record time.

Pamela Foster President West Coast Cities Branch of the National Association of University Women and members Charlia Vaultz, Valerie Vaultz, Zola Jones-NAUW-SW-Woman of the Year 2011 and Dr. Essie French–Preston finished placing the final touches on tables and served as facilitators in the workshops. At 8:15 AM the doors were open as individual flooded into the beautifully decorated staff lounge, registered, and received their information packets for the occasion. At 8:30 AM sharp an abundant-delicious continental breakfast was served.

Continue “In the Spirit of Women” Conference

Timed to precision was the general session opening and introduction of the fantastic-extraordinary, charismatic and distinguished emcee Dr. Sandra Scranton-Lee. Barbara Perez Vice President, Compton Center presented the welcome and greetings from the Compton Community College District were given by Dr. Genethia Hudley-Hayes, Special Trustee and Dr. Keith Curry, Interim, CEO.

Ms. Audrey Jordan Southwest Sectional Director of the National Association of University Women delivered an arousing presentation which covered the NAUW Mission: to serve women, youth and the disadvantaged in our communities and in developing countries by addressing educational issues, advancing the status of women's issues, and strategically partnering with allied organizations and the NAUW Purpose: to sponsor, promote and conduct educational activities designed to provide community outreach services to learners at every level of development, to extend assistance to those who are out of school but have need of those basic skills necessary to function effectively in our society, and to raise educational standards and achievements in colleges, universities, and institutions of higher learning. She concluded with scholarship information and an invitation to join the work of NAUW after completion of their four year degree. The NAUW information brochure was first distributed to Naomi Guy a student who has returned to the Compton Campus to complete her Associate Arts Degree and to Omonique Perkins who is a freshman student at the Compton campus. More brochures were distributed throughout the conference. (See photo: Audrey Jordan-Southwest Sectional Director of the National Association of University Women, Billie Frierson-National Woman of the Year of the National Association of University Women 2010 -12, Naomi Guy continuing student Compton Campus, and Omonique Perkins new student Compton Campus. Robert Butler presented a salute Ms. Ida Frisbee one of the founding members of the Women's Month History Program: **"In the Spirit of Women" Conference** which was started the program in 1981. Ms. Frisbee stated that it's heartwarming to be back on the campus; it is good to see new faces and familiar faces.

Next on stage was Juan Quinoas who embraced the audience and extolled the value of taking the positive messages from the conference and sharing the information, statistics, examples, themes, songs, creativity and how to succeed testimonies with others who could not be here today. Let it begin with you! He set the tone of good will to all by telling the audience to tell someone they did not know hello and to give them a compliment. He shared a personal story and read two poems by students which move the audience from tears to empowerment. An inspirational musical performance was presented by Audra A. Bryant of TLC productions. Her messages in song included (1) "You can't turn around and (2) Go where you have been called to go" and (3) I want some comfortable shoes.

Dr. Keith Curry, Interim CEO introduced Dr. Genethia Hudley-Hayes, Special Trustee who spoke on the purpose of the Compton Accreditation District. She stated that she has interacted, visited and observed students' actions on campus. Dr. Hudley-Hayes knows that students are here to learn; they stand in long lines to register for classes; they come prepared with backpacks filled with books; and are on time to classes. She wants to make sure that the program offerings are there for students to go on to a four year college and for those who want an Associate Arts Degree to get a job upon completion. She has heard some of the student concerns and wants to affirm that respect for students on campus and to [repair/improve] fix things on campus are her priorities. Dr. Hudley-Hayes wants to ensure the next generation of leaders for future generations. First on her agenda is to join with Dr. Curry and to help him to be successful. He is ready for this opportunity.... She will do something for the women's and the men's locker rooms... she will remove impediment out of Dr. Keith Curry's way for the next five years in office; she will be here [to help and to lead].

Shuga Rae who is a hip-hop singer and poetry writing artist! She is a graduate of Charles Drew and Spelman University. Her lyrics rocked the house: (a) ...a lie is a lie; and it isn't real Compton! (b) The Lord is my hope, (c) Only speak the truth! and (4) Elevate or shine; they grow and you grow with them[educationally & spiritually].

Three dynamic workshops were presented with relevant and informational hand outs to each attendee: (1) what's in the Bag? A presentation on self esteem presented by Synee Pearson-Gourdine, (2) Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention: How domestic violence affects families presented by Ms. Tiombe Preston - Marriage and Family Therapist Program Manager California Black Women's Health Project, and (3) She Wears the Hat: Hands on experience of making a hat that represents your personality presented by Ms. Bonita Henderson.



Hats, hats,

and more hats!

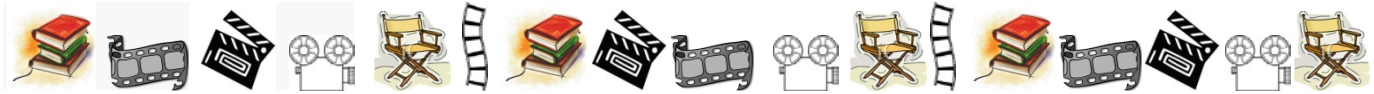
Sassy Sister Ms. Daisy Shields, age 96 and proud of it, was saluted for her work as a pioneer at the Compton Campus. The conference brochure paid Special tribute of Dr. Roberta West for the lifetime Achievement Award she earned during her tenure. She began her employment with Compton Community College District in 1963, served for 42 years and was the founder of the Gender Equity's Annual women's Conference "In the Spirit of Women." "Dr. Roberta West was the first African American woman to be hired as a nursing instructor ...an unsung hero to education ...and remains an icon in the Compton Community College District History."

The "In the Spirit of Women" Conference program keynote speaker was none other than the illustrious Dr. Earnest Smith, M. D. Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital/ Charles Drew University (Retired). Dr. Earnest Smith started from the beginning! He spoke from the beginning from the book of Genesis emphasizing how little is known about the creation of Eve when Adam woke he was missing a rib and Eve was there; She is a mystery; she is woman; she is mother; she is nurturer; and she is man's first teacher... There is strength in being a woman; ... faith without works is dead; ...continue being a nurturer and get a focus and keep it. ...Follow through with your good intentions and continue to be successful.



The "In the Spirit of Women" Conference Committee Co-Chairs were Pamella West & Dr. Sandra Scranton and the committee members were Robert Butler, Brenda Donaldson, Joyce Duren, Linda Coleman, Shirley Edwards, Kayla Ellis, Dr. Essie French-Preston, Dr. Cormelia Lyles, Rose Marie Livingston, Donald Mitchell, Wanda Morris, Rosemary Most, Estina Pratt, Tiombe Preston, and Opal Williams. Each played a vital role in making the conference a huge success. Compliment to Dr. Essie French-Preston who worked tirelessly throughout the conference; her demeanor, actions and leadership are admired as an administrator/faculty member on the Compton Campus as well as the Southwest Section Lay Member Officer of the National Association of University Women. A young woman stated, "I learned a lot today, and I am happy that I choose to attend. I saw it in the Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper this past Thursday." Several male students also attended the conference and participate in the workshops and echoed the same sentiments.

Dr. Evelyn Metoyer-Williams Southwest Section Historian reports on efforts made to preserve our branch histories and make them accessible for the future using new technologies and formats:



Southwest Section NAUW's History continues! Our Sectional Director, Audrey Jordan, Anthony, our video photographer, and I met at Mrs. Bernice Shannon's beautiful home on April 8, 2011. The purpose of this meeting was to capture the South Bay Branch's History. Present were Lillie Scott, Mary Brown, and Bernice Shannon with many pictures and scrapbooks. What a story to tell. On sight were Billie Frierson and Evelyn Wright who were on the question panel. Flash back memory and reflections was high. We had a wonderful time making this South Bay Branch historical video. We ask all remaining Branches to get ready and retrieve your history. Your Branch may be next. Question: Would you like to own a copy of your branch's history? RSVP to sectional mailing address. Report by: Dr. Evelyn Metoyer-Williams, Historian

South Bay Branch promotes literacy in the community and receives accolades!



Photo right: Sectional Director Jordan, Sharon Johnson & Billie Frierson represent NAUW South Bay Branch in group photo with Councilman Parks 8th District at book fair. Photo left: Sharon Johnson received the prestigious California Librarians Black Caucus - Joyce Madkins Sumbi Emerging Leaders Award & Certificate Dear NAUW Members:

Thank you so much for your support and participation in our Annual Leimert Park Village Book Fair held on June 25, 2011. ...You joined for the first time more than 100 authors, spoken word performers, poets and literary/educational organizations in our mission of promoting literacy in the community. I am familiar with your organization and thank you for joining us in our mission. ...Cynthia E. Exum Executive Director Leimert Park Village Book Fair www.leimertparkboofair.com info@leimertparkbookfair.com



#1-2 Volunteers #3 Charles A. Bibbs Reading Poster designed for the 5th annual Leimert Park Village Book Fair was presented to participating members. Mr. Bibbs is one of our nation's most acclaimed African American artists. #4 Actress Karyn Parson visits the NAUW booth and congratulates members for their participation.