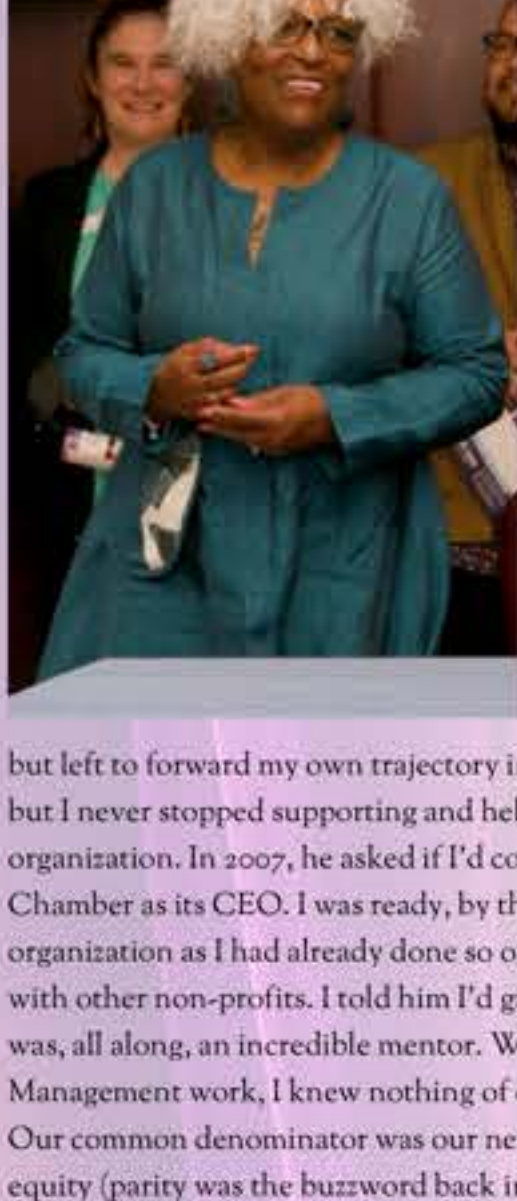


WELCOME TO OUR

# Monthly Newsletter



### AZIZZA SAYS

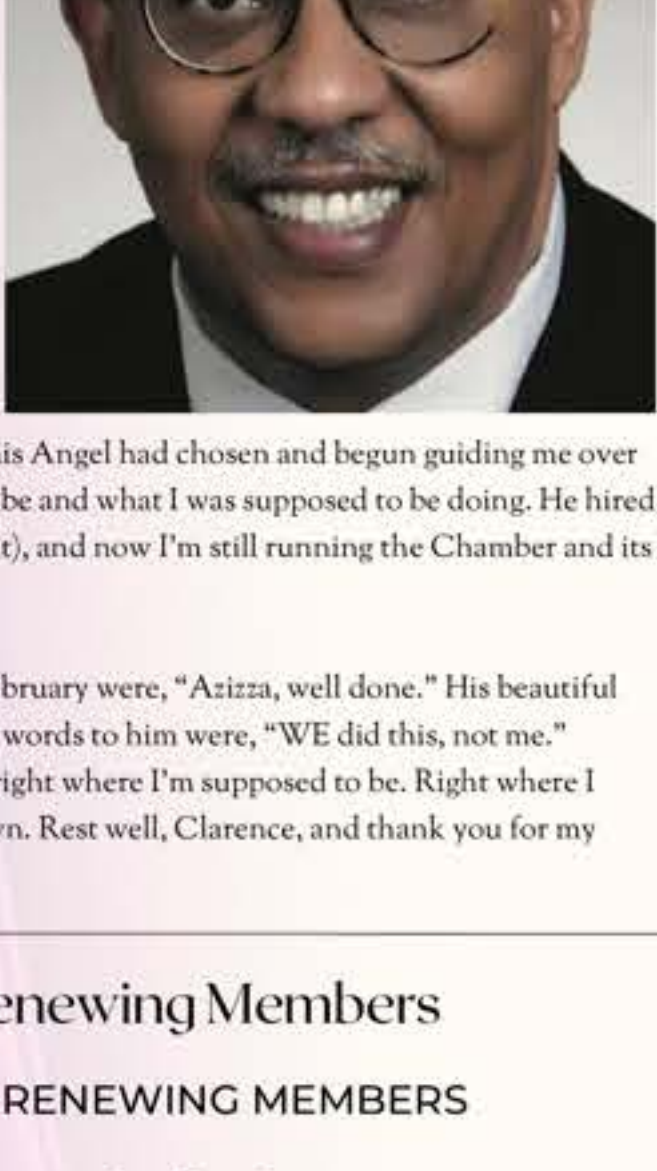
I said my final goodbye to this Angel who walked this earth for not long enough in my book. **Clarence Williams** impacted my life in a way I never saw coming. He gently guided and mentored me to where I was obviously meant to be.

Soon after moving to Sacramento in the very early 90s, I was working for the then Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau, now Visit Sacramento. (BTW, my husband reminded me that we, too, met at this same event. He still is a theatrical stagehand and built a lot of these shows at that time.) We (the CVB) were participating in a trade show at our teeny weenie convention center, and I, as a sales manager, was manning our booth. (This may get long, but it's a good story with a great message.) Clarence walked over to my booth, introduced himself, and we chatted for quite a while. He asked me as many questions as I did him. By the time he left, he'd asked me if I'd be interested in being a board member for the Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, an org that was only 7 or 8 at the time. I figured out that he needed an event planner for the fledgling organization. I said yes. I remained on the board for a couple of years

but left to forward my own trajectory in the non-profit world, but I never stopped supporting and helping to grow the organization. In 2007, he asked if I'd come work for the Chamber as its CEO. I was ready, by then, to lead an organization as I had already done so on a couple of occasions with other non-profits. I told him I'd give him five years! He was, all along, an incredible mentor. While I knew association Management work, I knew nothing of economic development. Our common denominator was our need/calling to work for equity (parity was the buzzword back in the day) for our underserved, unrepresented communities. Most of my work and passion prior was in healthcare. His Mentoring of me continued, but just as importantly, we became friends and neighbors. We eventually found out we lived right across the street from each other.

I last saw him at our (the SBCC's) open house during our Black History Month mixer in the building we'd recently purchased in Midtown Sacramento. His pride in me and the Chamber was almost palpable. I knew in those moments that this Angel had chosen and begun guiding me over 30 years ago and, in that time, showed me where I was meant to be and what I was supposed to be doing. He hired me about 16 years ago (I still have a copy of that original contract), and now I'm still running the Chamber and its Foundation.

The last words he spoke to me before leaving our building in February were, "Azizza, well done." His beautiful smile told me how pleased he was. My heart was so full. My last words to him were, "WE did this, not me." He guided my life here. I'm forever grateful and know that I'm right where I'm supposed to be. Right where I belong. This tribute is to one of the greatest men I've ever known. Rest well, Clarence, and thank you for my professional and personal life.



## Welcome the New and Renewing Members

### NEW MEMBERS

- Keller Williams Elk Grove
- The Plumbing Machines
- Sundt Construction
- BOSS BODY CRYO LLC
- On the Other Side of Grief, LLC
- Trifectiv PPS

### RENEWING MEMBERS

- Lead Star Security
- Sacramento Public Library
- CLEAR GRAPHICS AND PRINTING
- Momentum
- Sisters Of Nia Inc
- Nichols Strategies
- Cosumes Community Services District
- California American Water.
- Law Offices of DeLonda K. Coleman P.C.

WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE YOU BECOME A MEMBER AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

# Celebrating Juneteenth

# JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY

June 19, 2023

Every year we must remind successive generations that this event triggered a series of events that one by one defines the challenges and responsibilities of successive generations. That's why we need this holiday.

Al Edwards

## WHAT DOES JUNETEENTH MEAN TO YOU?

THIS MONTH, IN CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH, WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT THIS HOLIDAY MEANS TO YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR QUOTES THAT EXPRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS NATIONAL HOLIDAY

SEND YOUR QUOTES

## JUNETEENTH FREEDOM CELEBRATION MIXER

Join the Sacramento Black and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in the celebration of Juneteenth.

This event will feature networking, food, key speakers, history, and time to gather and reflect.

Limited vendor spaces available.

GET YOUR TICKETS



## We're Going Live 6/22

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

This month we are speaking with Deborah Grimes, the mother of Greg Najee Grimes, a victim of Gun Violence. Tune in as she shares information about the 212 Anchor Foundation, gun safety, and the inaugural Life Savers Party that will change a community!

LEARN MORE

THE 6TH ANNUAL DIVERSITY SUMMIT IS COMING NOVEMBER 13, 2023 AT HILTON SACRAMENTO ARDEN WEST FROM 8:00 - 11:30 AM!



# Congratulations!!

PRESIDENT DR. J. LUKE WOOD



WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO PARTNERING WITH YOU!

## Upcoming Member Events

### Welcome to the Chamber!

Register for the New Member Orientation on 6/22

Join the Local Chamber Collaborative to meet and network with one another at Hyatt Regency Sacramento 1209 L St, Sacramento, CA 95814

REGISTER NOW



### Are you Ready for an Encore Presentation?

Save the Date: The Young Leadership Collaborative Class of 2023 is hosting an encore presentation of the business plans presented during the YLC Graduation Housing Opportunities Made Easy!

Come witness the 14th cohort re-pitch their ideas to sponsors on how to make housing opportunities easier for their communities.

REGISTER NOW

## Life Savers Party

A Community Event focusing on Gun Safety 6/24, from 10 am -4 pm

Get your tickets for the Greg Najee Grimes: 212 Anchor Foundation's Inaugural Life Savers Party on 6/24 from 10 am-4 pm, at the North Natomas Community Center where there will be free training and certification courses that promote violence-free neighborhoods, reverse gun violence, and build resilience & reduce community traumas. Visit [www.gregnajeegrimes.com](http://www.gregnajeegrimes.com) for more information.

REGISTER NOW



## Caregiver and Brain Health Lunch and Laugh

Laughter is good for your brain!

On behalf of Sacramento County, the Alzheimer's Association, UC Davis Aging and Alzheimer's Center and Del Oro Caregivers, we are hosting a FREE Lunch and Laugh event at Roberts Family Development Center. The event will be held on Saturday, June 24th. We will have a local black comedian, panels that are culturally competent as well as vendors/tables so participants can ask questions and gain information.

REGISTER NOW

