

African American History Celebration

April 26, 2014. Celebrate African American History. Why wait until February each year to celebrate? AALO is celebrating all year long. This celebration was held at the Boys & Girls Club in Pacoima. Lights...camera...action!



Melena



We were delighted to have Melena perform for the event. Her Afro-Cuban sound is a conversation of melodies which she plays with fierce passion. Melena is a multi-talented percussionist who plays Congas, Timbales, Bata Drums, and Shekere. She exemplifies the sound of legendary players from the past, to the modern sound of today.



Featured speaker for the event was (left) **Fluke Fluke**, pictured here with **Bob Winn**, President & CEO of the African American Leadership Organization. Fluke is an educator and is well-known as the co-founder of The Village Nation. A strong and effective advocate for our children, Fluke has appeared on national television including The Oprah Winfrey show speaking about the positive results produced through his program. For more information visit their website <http://thevillagenation.com/>

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During African American History Month (February), it's important to look back and remember the African Americans that have contributed to society and culture. However, we believe it is important that this activity be continued all year long. We are enjoying the freedoms and liberties we have today because someone paid a price. Whether it was giving up their lives; the courage to endure pain; the will to help others in trouble; refusing to give up their seat on the bus, their empowering speeches, or their artistic or athletic ability in breaking down barriers, there are many who paved the way and they deserve our thanks and gratitude.

We ask that you take a moment during your busy life to research some of the African Americans who contributed so much to our rich culture. Don't limit your research to February—learn about African American icons all year long

Amber Love



Amber delivered a powerful and passionate Spoken Word to the message to the audience. Always powerful and purposeful, Amber is a wife and mother of two, an actress, an advocate for young girls (*The Valley Girls*) and creative director of the TCJ Ministry. She is a busy lady and we were delighted to have her participate in this African American History event.



Our good friend, **Rev. Sammy Riley, Jr.** served as our MC for the event. Young Mr. Riley is very active in the community serving on the Advisory Board for the Black Infant Health Program. He is Assistant Minister at the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church in Pacoima.

A few lucky people won gift cards!



Praise Dancers from the New Paradise Church of God in Christ



Christopher Dennis, "A Better Chance College Preparatory Program"

On behalf of the community, AALO and President Bob Winn, we extend a collective "thank you" to **Councilmember Felipe Fuentes** (7th District) for making funds available for this celebration of African American history. AALO looks forward to working with the Councilmember regarding other issues facing the African American community in this community.



We had great information, great entertainment and great food! Let's do this again very soon!