Greetings to all:

On Saturday, April 21, 2018, the Women’s Civic Improvement Club conducted its annual general election to the board of directors. The following candidates were elected to the board:

- Dale McKinney - Legal
- Yolanda Price - Senior
- Lauren Hammond - Community
- Reginald Castex - Community

Congratulations and good luck on your work with our board.

On another note, the board wishes to extend its appreciation for the hard work of Edenausageboye Davis for overseeing the improvements and repairs to the center at 3555 Third Avenue in Oak Park. The improvements will allow our Playmate Head Start affiliate to educate children on an all day basis.

WCIC also wants to recognize Dorothy “Loke” Paleka and Dorothy Benjamin for their hard work in administering the Ann Land Bertha Henschel fund emergency grants for low income individuals.

WCIC is up and running on low power FM radio, station 105.9. Thanks to Dale McKinney for his hard work in overseeing the operation of the station. Whether it continues is an open question as the FCC may want more than WCIC can continue to provide.

If interested, you can also attend our monthly board meetings, generally held the first Monday of each month.

Finally, WCIC is always interested in your financial support. Tax deductible donations are always cheerfully accepted.

Peter Brixie, outgoing Board President
Greetings from WCIC's Diverse Workforce Team,

After an amazing recent spiritual encounter with one of our Founding Mothers, I was blessed to receive a phone call on April 30th, 2018 from her Nephew (Mr. Juan Bailey). I have admired Mrs. Ruth Johnson, Founding Mother’s beautiful portrait on WCIC’s wall in the Board room over my almost four decades of rewarding community service at the Women’s Civic Improvement Club!!! Therefore, it is so important to share Mrs. Ruth Johnson, Founding Mother’s outstanding story as one of our remarkable legends via WCIC’s E-Newsletter!

Faith is amazing! Nephew Juan Bailey’s call from out of state resulted in the awesome sharing of his journal kept on Aunt Ruth (WCIC’s Founding Mother) and Uncle Ken who were very active in the community and in politics. Uncle Ken was the campaign Manager for one of his dear friends who was running for the California Senate. Aunt Ruth was very active in many organizations. She worked with the Women's Civic Improvement Club, the Y.W.C.A., the Community Welfare Council, Red Cross, Community Chest and many others. Aunt Ruth and Uncle Ken were lifetime members of the NAACP and were very active in the civil rights movement around the Nation.

On June 19, 1960, Aunt Ruth passed away after a long battle with Breast Cancer. At this time cancer was a devastating disease. If you had it there was very little hope of survival. Juan does not remember when she was diagnosed with cancer, but remembers her going to the hospital for the surgery and then coming home. She spent almost all her time in bed until she passed.

On October 30, 1960 there was a tribute held for Aunt Ruth at the Women’s Civic Improvement Club to honor her for her service. A portrait of her was given to the Women’s Civic Home by Mrs. Grace Morgan Jones, a close friend of many years; and given as a symbol of love, affection and respect to her memory.

PORTRAIT UNVEILING OF MRS. RUTH BEATRICE BAILEY JOHNSON

On Sunday, October 30, 1960, at the Women’s Civic Improvement Club, 1219 X Street, Sacramento, California, a portrait of Mrs. Ruth Beatrice Bailey Johnson was unveiled. This lovely likeness of Mrs. Johnson who passed away in June of 1960 was given to the Women’s Civic Home by Mrs. Grace Morgan Jones, a close friend of many years; and given as a symbol of love, affection and respect to her memory.

The setting of this beautiful affair with its autumn decorations and the delightful musical program, which preceded the unveiling, was very well attended. Mrs. Johnson’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bailey and husband, Dr. Kenneth M. Johnson, were the honored guests. Mrs. Alvernon Tripp was the Mistress of Ceremonies and Mrs. Grace Jones paid a beautiful tribute, and in these remarks related how Mrs. Johnson had given limitless energy and drive to the leadership of the Women’s Civic Improvement Club from its earliest organization. Not only was she an inspiration to this activity, but was consistently lending assistance and contributing unselfishly to other civic organizations such as the Community Welfare Council, Red Cross, Community Chest, Visiting Nurses Association, Y.W.C.A. and many others.

This enchanting portrait becomes a lovely addition to the Women’s Civic Club, but the more important fact is that each time someone admires it they will be reminded of a wonderful life that was so full of inspiration, and of the accomplishments that will remain indelibly imprinted on the community life of Sacramento, California.

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Visit us on the web at: www.wcicinc.org
It is my purpose this afternoon to pay a richly deserved tribute to the memory of Mrs. Ruth B. Johnson, a very dear friend, and a devoted and highly esteemed member of our Women's Civic Improvement Club.

For all of us who had the good fortune to know and work with Ruth Johnson, we know that she was a person who stood head and shoulders above the crowd. When you see this happen there is always a reason for it. We found her at all times understanding and sympathetic, a little person with a big heart. She was made from an exceptionally rare pattern. A combination of humility and dignity, courtesy and firmness, generosity, kindness and devotion to duty. What she believed, she believed with heart and soul. She never dodged responsibility, never refused to take on a difficult job if it needed to be done and fought hard for every cause in which she enlisted and the causes for which she fought were good, sound and worthy.

To the solution of problems in our Women's Civic Improvement Club, she brought a keen and brilliant mind and her limitless energy and drive gave new impetus to our Club’s leadership year after year. Her vision and sound judgment helped steer the ship of the organization away from dangerous shores and on a true course, through many ordeals.

No one whose privilege it was to know her is likely to forget her radiant smile, the candor of her speech, the courage of her faith, the warm and glowing brightness of her friendship.

I should like to paraphrase the words of Abraham Lincoln, who in a memorable address said, “The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here”. And so it is with Ruth Johnson, a wonderful person whose life was so full of inspiration and whose accomplishments have left an indelible imprint on the life of our community.

To her husband, Dr. Kenneth M. Johnson and Mother and Father, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bailey, who are with us this afternoon, I want to thank you for the role you played in her life, through whose courage, vision and deep faith, she has left and example worthy of emulation by everyone who loves his fellow man. When I think of her countless unselfish interests, not only in her work here in Women’s Civic Improvement Club, but in all her other humanitarian endeavors: The Community Welfare Council, Red Cross, Community Chest, Visiting Nurses Association and of some twenty odd years of service she gave to the Y.W.C.A. I think of these famous lines of James Russell Lowell, “Visions of Sir Lamford”

“Not what we give, but what we share
For the gift without the giver is bare
Who gives himself and alms feed three
Himself, his hungering neighbor and me”.

Now I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to unveil this portrait of Mrs. Ruth Beatrice Bailey Johnson, and I give it as a symbol of our love, affection and respect to her memory and I hope that it will serve as a perpetual testimonial and an ever-continuing inspiration to those who labor here in our Club Home making our cherished dreams come true.

Mrs. Grace Morgan Jones
October 30, 1960

Love and Blessings,
Ms. Edenancegboye Davis, MPA
Executive Director/Head Start
Women’s Civic Improvement Club (WCIC)
Office # (916) 457-8661 or
Office # (916) 451-8870
W.C.I.C.’s Teachers have piloted the Learning Genie! WCIC/Playmate Child Development Center, Head Start Program’s Teachers have received IPADs from Sacramento Employment and Training Agency for use of the Learning Genie. The Learning Genie helps with the interactive daily reporting system that allows the Teachers to better record children’s daily activities. The Learning Genie is shared with the parents during Parent Conferences. Teachers create reports on the go with Learning Genie and are able to take daily pictures of the children from the start to the end of the child’s day. It tells the story of how children are performing in the classrooms. The Learning Genie saves time on documentation. It helps eliminate paperwork by inputting children’s portfolios by organizing selected domains, sample types and dates. The Learning Genie App is on the IPAD’s, which allows Teachers to take pictures anytime of the day and work samples, videos and photographs, which include an observation note describing what the children did in class. If any languages are dictated on the work sample, Teachers would note work samples or write the dictation in the observation note section on the IPAD. The Teachers are allowed to tag several Measures for each Domain. Drafts can be saved successfully on the IPAD device and be revisited when Teachers have time to finish up on the anecdotal during prep time. As Teachers continue with the Desired Results Developmental Plan (DRDP) the Learning Genie plays a big part by an increase in productivity; the workload has reduced. Teachers could easily rate on the same measure base on different observation notes independently. The Learning Genie supports pictures and videos evidence gathering, aligned to DRDP assessment tool.

Yahoo for the Grantee’s (Sacramento Employment and Training Agency’s) support in providing IPADs!!! Learning Genie is an awesome asset to WCIC’s Teaching Team!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Janet Wong-Acorda, MA
Head Teacher
WCIC/Playmate Child Development Center, Head Start Program
Office # (916) 451-8870
My Story

Reginald Castex, Policy Council Chair (Head Start Program)
Sacramento Employment and Training Agency

3-2-1 Blast off! My name is Reginald Castex Jr. I was born September 30th, 1988; only a day after America launched space shuttle Discovery into orbit. I was born, during a process of exploration and discovery. I was raised in Oak Park, neighborhood poverty stricken; drug infested, and gang influences. I was born in sinking sand where only the strong make it out. I lived on the roughest of blocks; 3948 4th Ave, right across the street from the very first Playmate Head Start Program in Oak Park.

Young as I was, I of course didn’t know there was a school only across the street until my mother Julie Debbs enrolled me and my older brother Tavon Debbs into the Head Start program. Looking back on past events that assisted to my happy childhood on 4th: I think of tether ball at 4th Avenue Park with Ms. Lena Usher’s grandkids, Mrs., and Mr. selling 50 cent plates of Chinese food to children only, Penny and her garden in the backyard, pet snake in the garage or large variety of instruments., which she allowed kids within range to enjoy. But like yesterday, I can remember both the taste and smell of the mouthwatering breakfast prepared by staff. Ms. Paula and her coworkers would take my brother and I in as what felt like their own playing perfect substitute role of a mom. I can still remember, the shared joy in the atmosphere from the kids and the elders received the new sand box in the mold of a green turtle, along with other items.

My thinking was a lot outside of the box like that of those who explored heavens limits in the space shuttle. I graduated high school with a 3.4 grade point average. I hadn’t planned on going to college, and it wasn’t even a full year of no school before my hunger for knowledge forced me back into learning. Bright minded and talented, I enrolled in Sacramento City College (SCC). I was indecisive. I sifted through a plethora of classes. The choices in life course a prolonged process in making a choice. I jumped into Business, into Psychology and Children Theater. Although I had savored the excitement and appreciation, I received after performing at an elementary school assembly as the lead character in the play.

It was time I did something to benefit the family I was creating; I had to make a choice. I went to Charles A. Jones where I received a certificate of completion in HVAC. Even though I had graduated top of my class, with my instructor referring to me as a genius, I was challenged when it came to getting employers to see that. I’ve left many interviews just knowing I had the job only to never receive a call back from the company. It was time I improved my education, so I went back to see only this time sure of my major, MEH/HVAC.

An unexpected turn around in my plans occurred, disabling me from attending Sacramento City College after my first year. I was drained. All this time invested into a field with so many barriers. Following the situation, I plummeted into politics; watching city hall meetings, presidential debates, and foreign events on world news channels. I even came up on a temporary job at Grassroots Campaigns where I advocated for different organizations. Unfortunately this side of politics wasn’t for me. I was let go for not meeting quota in donations. My son Reginald Castex the 3rd would in no time be in kindergarten, but would need some experience in school prior to. And I was running low on hope; we both needed a fresh head start! It was WCIC/Playmate Head Start Program on 8th Avenue where we both would received this push.

It was during orientation that I met the Executive Director/Head Start Director of the program, Ms. Davis; Ms. Janet became R3s teacher; and after being presented the opportunity became one of Ms. Janet’s (2) Current Parents/Class Representatives for the Parent/Policy Committee. My soft skills were being touched up. I was proud to see my friend Amillio, someone who had emerged from similar struggles in life told me great things of the (PC). I saw the opportunity and set off to explore the limits! My first year on PC I unexpectedly was elected Chair. I had become heavily involved in my community. I tried my place in the fight against gentrification and rising gang violence negatively impacting natives. I was building the name Reginald Castex Jr. in a different light. Recent endeavors include my attendance in public forums with our State Assembly members, meeting one on one with different City Council members, and I even manage to obtain recognition from Senator Pan for male involvement in a child’s life.

I am currently elected as Chair of the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency’s Head Start Policy Council located on 925 Del Paso Blvd. To add a couple more, I’m youth leader at my church and Chair of the Men’s Activities Affecting Children’s Committee.

Playmate gave the Head Start, now I’m blasting off!!!

Visit us on the web at: www.wcicinc.org
WCIC’s Senior Program Message

In February of this year, the Women’s Civic Improvement Club received the first half of the grant funds it was awarded from the Ann Land Bertha Henschel Funds, to assist low income seniors pay their rent, utilities and to purchase food.

Good News! Funds are still Available! If you are in need of assistance or know someone who needs assistance, please have them contact Loke at (916) 457-2524 for additional details.

SACRAMENTO NAACP 36th PRAYER BREAKFAST

On March 30, 2018, members of WCIC attended the Sacramento NAACP 36th Annual Prayer Breakfast. The theme of this year’s breakfast was “Moving Towards Justice to Heal the Land” and it was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento, California. The event was a huge success and was sold out!

Sarah Richey, WCIC lifetime member, personally coordinated and sold tickets for WCIC table. During the program, the MC acknowledged both WCIC and Sarah. A special thank you to Sarah and those members who attended the event.

WCIC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next WCIC Membership Meeting will be held on June 16, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. at WCIC.

Visit us on the web at: www.wcicinc.org
WCIC’s Youth Program Message

WCIC’s Rainbow Youth Leadership Coalition 2nd Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at WCIC, 3555 3rd Avenue. The purpose of the forum is to listen to youths/young adults issues, ideas, suggested programs/events, etc. Therefore, please accept this communication as your invitation to attend and participate.

Your support makes it happen!

Contact us at WCIC: (916) 451-8870

E-Newsletter Staff:
Editor – Mrs. Dorothy Benjamin
Assistant Editor – Dr. Deborah Wilds
Coordinator and Chief – Ms. Edenausageboye Davis
Graphic Designer and Layout – Mr. Moua Moua

It’s Not Too Late!

There is still time to make a tax deductible donation to WCIC.
Mail your donation to:
P.O. Box 5095
Sacramento, CA 95817.

Visit us on the web at: www.wcicinc.org