



District 5 News and Updates

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African American Community Leaders Recognized

This year as the nation recognized Black History Month, there was more to celebrate than Barack Obama becoming the first African American man to take the highest leadership role in the United States. Two of California's prominent African American elected leaders, Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Assemblyman Sandré Swanson, have also taken new leadership roles in 2009.

On Friday, February 27, 2009 at the Joyce Gordon Gallery in downtown Oakland the Black Elected Officials and Faith Based Leaders of the East Bay honored Congresswoman Barbara Lee as the new Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and Assemblyman Sandré Swanson as the new Chair of the California State Legislative Black Caucus. Lee and Swanson spoke of the important role of the Black Caucus in making sure the State Assembly and US Congress prioritize the needs of African Americans and identify resources for all populations that are most in need of relief.

"I am honored to be a part of the legacy of leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus," Rep. Lee states, "Along with

Right: Greg Hodge and Pastor Brandon Reems present Assemblyman Swanson and Congresswoman Lee with sculptures from Ghana.



Voters Can Make or Break State Budget Deal

California voters will be asked to participate in the second election since Arnold Schwarzenegger became Governor. The first special election occurred on November 8, 2005, and had eight ballot initiatives all of which failed. In total, California has only held five special elections, including the 2003 recall election that placed Schwarzenegger into office. In 2005, the special election cost California approximately \$47 million—\$38 million was reimbursed to the 58 counties for costs incurred due to the special election. The cost for the 2009 special election is still not yet known.

On May 19, 2009 the Legislature will place the state budget in the hands of the voters. This year there will be six budget measures on the ballot (1A – 1F). Lawmakers will have to revise the state budget which most likely means

making more cuts and/or tax increases if any of the initiatives fail except one, Proposition 1F, which prohibits legislators from receiving pay raises during deficit years.

The six propositions on the ballot are:

Proposition 1A: Places a permanent spending cap on future state spending and requires a larger reserve fund. Extends temporary tax increases for an additional two years.

Proposition 1B: Allocates \$9.3 billion in 2011-12 to schools to compensate for previous budget cuts, but the measure is contingent on the passage of 1A.

Proposition 1C: Allows the state to borrow up to \$5 billion from future

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my colleagues the Congressional Black Caucus will continue to be the conscience of the Congress and the voice of the voiceless."

"The Legislative Black Caucus will play an important role in reshaping the priorities of California," Assemblyman Swanson says, "It is vital that the State

addresses the needs of those most impacted by this economic crisis."

Maudelle Shirek, a founding member of the BEO&FBL and Geoffrey Pete, owner of Geoffrey's Inner Circle were also recognized for their many years of commitment to community activism.

Right: Maudelle Shirek and Geoffrey Pete receive awards for their long-time leadership and commitment to community activism.





State Budget Deal... *Continued from page 1*

lottery proceeds and protects funding levels for schools currently provided by lottery revenues.

Proposition 1D: Redirects up to 65% (\$608 million) of First 5 money for early child development to other children's programs for five years—\$340 million will come from state commission unspent reserve funds and \$268 million from future revenue. Voters approved Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50-cent tax to each pack of cigarettes. Prop. 10 revenues will be allocated by the state legislature during the five year period.

Proposition 1E: Redirects approximately \$230 million of voter-approved funding

from Proposition 63, state mental health funds (passed in 2004) for two years to pay for a low-income child development program known as the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program.

Proposition 1F: Prohibits state elected officials from receiving pay raises when the state is running a deficit.

For more information visit:
www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm

Register to vote at:
www.acgov.org/rov/registration.htm

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Celebrating the Lunar New Year — The Year of the Ox



Alameda County, BART, The Asian Community Collaborative and The Oakland Asian Cultural Center worked together to produce the annual Lunar New Year Celebration on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center in Chinatown.

Over 250 elementary students and 100 County and BART employees enjoyed performances by special guest performers: The San Francisco Wushu and Lion Dance Team, Lincoln



Above: Youth from the Ong Dance Company perform one of Korea's most famous drum dances, Sam Go Mu. The dancers exert all parts of their body, incorporating graceful yet powerful acrobatic movements to symbolize the merging of spirit and earth.

Elementary School's Purple Bamboo Orchestra and the Korean Senior Choir. As well as performances by OACC resident artists: Winnie Wong playing the guzheng (traditional Chinese instrument), Buddhists Monks demonstrating Kung Fu, and The Ong Dance Company performing a traditional Korean drum dance.



View more photos at:
www.KeithCarson.org - "Photo Gallery"



The Korean Senior Choir



Winnie Wong



Elementary School Students



Kung Fu Staff Routine



The San Francisco Wushu and Lion Dance Team