

Message to the Madam CJ Walker Luncheon Attendees

April 10, 2015

On behalf of the Oakland Bay Area Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, I welcome you to the 17th Annual Madam CJ Walker Luncheon Fundraiser and extend special greetings to Dr Maxine Hickman, President of the San Francisco Chapter, Evelyn Fraizer, President of the Sacramento Chapter and Frank Tucker, President of the 100 Black Men of the Bay Area.

Madam CJ Walker's legacy continues to be part of our tradition by highlighting her achievements as an entrepreneur and philanthropist which has become our standard to honor four remarkable women who have made significant impacts in their careers and community.

To our Key Note Speaker Rosalind L Hudnell, thank you so much for being with us today. Ms. Hundnell will encourage, enlighten and empower us with her presentation on the Gift of Confidence.

Our mission of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women is to provide programs that increase the participation of African American women in economic, civic, entrepreneurial and human service areas of their respective communities through education, scholarship and collaboration.

Today, I am ecstatic to report to you that the Oakland Bay Area Chapter, not only has been designated as a Model Chapter by our National Board of Directors, but is also celebrating its 20th Anniversary serving the Oakland Bay Area community.

How have we been able to sustain ourselves for 20 years? We do this with passion, dedication and commitment in the following three ways:

First, by encouraging our girls in the Positive Step Program every 3rd Saturday to realize their full potential by developing a curriculum to broaden their perspective in areas of health, wellness, careers, leadership and personal development. Our members volunteer many hours to ensure these girls have the opportunity to express their opinions in a safe and caring environment. Today you will hear the presentation of the winning essay by Positive Stepper Brooklynn Forrest who will share her journey overcoming obstacles. She is an inspiration to us all.

Second, by our continuous use of our voices with our partners at Cal PEP to promote educational forums and advocate for HIV/AIDS testing, which is heard throughout the

Bay Area. To Cal Pep, we look forward to our collaboration with you, particularly the mobilization of the community to encourage testing to know their status.

And thirdly, by our commitment to higher education, we award scholarships to advance young scholars and mature women who aspire to improve themselves. These scholarships are essential to cover the forever increasing expenses of attending a four year institution, community college or an apprenticeship program.

Now, I would like for you to join me in recognizing the Members of the Oakland Bay Area Chapter. Stand My Sisters and take your bow and be recognized for your volunteerism and unwavering commitment to our Mission, Vision and Programs and my sincere thank you to each of you.

We hold in high esteem our Sponsors and donors who partner with our Chapter by providing grants and donations which not only sustains but grow our programs which offers more opportunity to women and girls. Your continued support of our Mission and Vision, impacts the lives of women and girls without question.

Congratulations to Shari Wooldridge, 3rd Vice President, Luncheon Chair and Lydia Taylor Bellinger, Board Member at Large and Luncheon Chair Co-Chair for your leadership .To the entire Planning Committee, especially Cathy Adams of CDA Consulting Group, thank you for your creativity ,dedication and tenacity in planning this event. Your being part of a team to identify sponsors and donors for this year's Annual Fundraiser provides the Chapter with the necessary resources to continue providing programs to Women and Girls.

I encourage each of you to visit our Membership Table to obtain additional information about the Membership Drive and to the Historian Table to review our historical documents .Consider becoming a Friend of NCBW by visiting our our website for the application form. Also, take the time to meet some of our members and share with us your experiences and other resources you may have that can assist our Chapter's growth.

We look forward to new and continued partnerships including the marketing of the NCBW/OBAC 18th Annual Madam C.J. Walker Business and Community Recognition Awards Fundraiser Luncheon and value your recommendations for our continued success. Thank you again for all of your support.

Cheryl Perry League