

"CRAFTING FAITH AND COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT" CONFERENCE

Presented By:



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF SAN FRANCISCO

Partner Sponsors:



Supplier Sponsors:



Wednesday, May 28, 2008 • 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco • 950 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90014

www.LeviticalNetwork.com

WELCOME LETTER



Dear Leader:

On behalf of Citibank and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, I am pleased to welcome you to the Levitical Network's "Crafting Faith and Community-Based Development" Conference.

We have partnered to host this conference to highlight successful models of Small Business and Economic Development; Affordable Housing and Community Development that have been utilized within the Los Angeles Ecumenical Community.

We are pleased to have Steve Soboroff, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Playa Vista and Bishop Noel Jones, Pastor City of Refuge lead us in this discussion. We intend to continue the dialogue begun today with you in other formats and mediums. We encourage your participation as we strive to create a forum for mutual edification across our varied faith traditions.

Thank you again for attending, we look forward to working with you in the future in raising up our collective community development efforts.

In Service,

Rev. Douglas E. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer



PROGRAM

Continental Breakfast

Welcome

Melody Nava
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

About Citi Community Relations

Victor Ramirez
Citibank

Statement of Purpose

Rev. Douglas E. Nelson
Levitical Network

Invocation

Rev. Aaron Iverson
Paradise Baptist Church

House Rules

Rev. Douglas E. Nelson

Break

Ashes to Ascension: How Communal Woes Produces Communal Champions

Phillip Hart, ULI - moderator (removed confirmed)
Rev. Mark Whitlock, Christ Our Redeemer AME Church
Bishop Noel Jones, City of Refuge
Scott Chaplan, Urban
Rev. Aaron Iverson, Paradise Baptist Church

Building thru Burdens: Developing Communal Ministries That Work

Rev. Hyepin Im, KCCD - moderator
Lula Ballton, West Angeles CDC
Rev. Byron Smith, One Church One School,
Calvary CME - Pasadena
Lori Gay, LA Neighborhood Housing Services
David Levinson, Big Sunday

Break

Counting the Cost: Financing Development Partnerships

Neelaura Bell, LISC - moderator
Tomas Duran, Genesis LA
Jackie Dupont Walker, Ward CDC

Break

Lunch

Steve Soboroff, Playa Vista

Summation

Rev. Douglas E. Nelson & Next Steps

Final Remarks

Paul Turner, Regional Director, Citibank

Conclusion/End

Rev. Douglas E. Nelson

PANEL TOPICS

Ashes to Ascension: How Communal Woes Produces Communal Champions (Small Business & Economic Development)

This panel will explore the depths from which successful ministries of small business and economic development are built. The panel will cover how each ministry rose from the ashes of fire and despair to become communal ministry champions. The panel features the personalities of Bishop Noel Jones, Pastor City of Refuge (formerly Greater Bethany Community Church) and his co-developer Scott Chaplan, who are moving forward to develop affordable, market-rate and mixed-use housing and commercial developments along Hoover and Manchester Blvd; Rev. Aaron Iverson, Pastor Paradise Baptist Church, one of the first affordable housing developers within Los Angeles' ecumenical community and heir to one of Los Angeles' largest and most prosperous ministries, which is now re-committed to develop its land along Broadway and 51st Street; Rev. Mark Whitlock, Pastor of Christ Our Redeemer AME Church in Irvine, CA and former Executive Director of FAME Renaissance, which helped to raise more than \$100 million dollars following the 1992 civil unrest under the leadership of his pastor, Rev. Cecil Murray, which facilitated investments in Los Angeles's small businesses. The panel's moderator, Dr. Philip Hart, Executive Director Urban Land Institute Los Angeles, is a critically acclaimed scholar, developer, movie producer and sought after development consultant who has authored articles, journals, chapters and books on ecumenical community development.

Building thru Burdens: Developing Community Ministries that Work (Affordable Housing & Community Development)

This panel will address how certain ministries began, are sustained and progress in good and bad financial times. The panel will investigate the impetus that crafted some of America's most successful ministries or community development efforts. The panel features Dr. Lula Ballton, President and Chief Executive Officer West Angeles Community Development Corporation, who is a sought after speaker and instructor, the CDC's inspiration in receiving numerous awards from Presidential Commendations to Best Practice Awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Lori Gay, President and Chief Executive Officer Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services, a licensed minister who has tilled the secular field of community development for more than 20 years toward rebuilding impoverished communities - nationally and internationally - and creating mechanisms for community empowerment and ownership; David Levinson, Founder and Executive Director Big Sunday is a noted theatre, film and television writer, who has catalyzed more than 50,000 people coming together in service to one another throughout Southern California; Rev. Byron Smith, Pastor Calvary CME Pasadena and West Coast Director One Church One School, guides the growth and strategic alliances of one of the country's great ecumenical school adoption programs under the leadership of its founder Bishop Henry M. Williamson, 9th Episcopal District. The moderator, Rev. Hyepin Im, a phenomenal community development practitioner, is Founder and President of Korean Churches for Community Development. She has personally led the nation to acknowledge and appropriate dollars to Asian American Adolescent and Youth Issues, recently receiving \$5 million from the U.S. Department of Labor for workforce development.

Counting the Cost: Financing Development Partnerships (Community Development)

This panel will explore the relationship dynamics in partnerships with financing agencies and faith and community-based nonprofit organizations. The panel will discuss partnerships between private, public and non-government sources. It will address what makes a financing partnership, how they are developed, and how they are maintained and leveraged. Panelist include: Tomas Duran, Vice President Urban Development Genesis LA is responsible for cultivating and financing real estate development opportunities within the inner-city. He is an award winning planning advocate and organizer – he is the new New Markets Tax Credits man at Genesis LA; Jackie Dupont-Walker, Founder and President Ward Economic Development Corporation has more than 35 years experience in community development, 20 of which has been focused in the West Adams community where Ward African Methodist Episcopal Church is located. Over the years she has counseled, coached, and cajoled finance partners from the federal, state and local government to join in their precedent setting developments. Moderator, Neelura Bell, is Executive Director of the Local Initiative Support Corporation office in Los Angeles that has invested in the nonprofit partners of these relationships for the last 20 years. Through LISC's efforts, more than \$400 million has been invested in more than 100 community development corporations, impacting 7,300 new homes, 32,000 people and nearly 1.1 million square feet of commercial, industrial, retail and community space. Aptly named, Ms. Bell rings and all Los Angeles financiers come inquiring about which organizations are ripe for their pre-development, construction and permanent financing investment products.

BIOGRAPHIES

Steve Soboroff

Playa Vista

Luncheon Keynote Speaker



Photo by Leroy Hamilton

Steve Soboroff has long been known as a business leader and public servant who brings people together to get positive results. **He is Chairman and CEO of Playa Vista, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Weingart Foundation. He is a member of the Board of Directors of First Federal Bank, a senior fellow at the UCLA School of Public Policy, a member of the Board of Councilors to the USC School of Public Policy and the Chairman of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at LMU.**

As Chairman and CEO of Playa Vista, one of the nation's most significant multi-use real estate projects, Steve and his team oversee all aspects of the Playa Vista community. Described by the Los Angeles Times as "L.A.'s Urban Model," the sustainable development provides critically needed housing, commercial office space and neighborhood shopping, while adding parks, preserving the environment and restoring hundreds of acres of wetlands.

Steve has a strong track record for creating, improving and protecting open space and park land for city residents. He served as president of the L.A. Recreation and Parks Commission from 1995 to 2001, reinvigorating the city's park system to better meet the recreational needs of the people of Los Angeles. In addition, Steve was the driving force behind bringing Staples Center to Los Angeles and helped spearhead the Alameda Corridor Project, and he finished within 3% in the 2001 mayoral primary election in Los Angeles. Prior to serving as a Parks commissioner, Steve was a member of the City's Harbor Commission.

Steve has been active in Big Brothers since 1968, serving as President and then Chairman Emeritus of Big Brothers. He currently sits as a member of the Board of Governors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles. He has lectured and/or taught at UCLA, USC, Stanford, UC Berkeley, University of Arizona, and Loyola Marymount University and volunteers his time to mentor several university students annually.

Steve's company received the "Los Angeles Beautiful" Award for restoration of retail buildings on Montana Avenue and in Malibu. A successful real estate executive who was honored locally as Harvard Business School's "Business Statesman of the Year," and was given the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Steve holds Bachelor and Masters Degrees in the Dept. of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate from the University of Arizona. He resides in Pacific Palisades with his wife Patti and their five children.

Steve's hobbies (other than time with the family) include golf (24 handicap), hiking, and collecting "volume 1 – number 1" issues of major American magazines.

BIOGRAPHIES

Bishop Noel Jones

City of Refuge

Special Guest Speaker



The body of Christ received a gift from God when Bishop Noel Jones was born. Therefore, it was by Divine appointment that he followed in the footsteps of his father, Bishop Robert Jones, when he acknowledged his call into ministry at the age nineteen.

Although he was raised in Jamaica under an extremely strict Pentecostal traditional system, he somehow escaped the limitations of tradition to widen his spiritual parameters to reach people of varied backgrounds and cultures. Grace Jones, along with the diversity of his other siblings probably helped a great deal. “If I could reconcile and keep peace among us, I can reconcile the Church through the power of God.”

Bishop Jones’ ministry uniquely promotes reconciliation and redemption, which definitely crosses denominational and social lines. His God given anointing to preach and teach from a psychological-theological platform opposed to arguing philosophical-theological church issues has strengthened and encouraged the faith of people across the globe from Seattle to Miami, from London to Africa.

His intellectual, scriptural approach, and his intense oratorical style, stimulates the intellect of people on all levels of life. This style and approach was responsible for Tavis Smiley flying from Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles every weekend to attend service. Many hail his method as “being practical, yet powerful” while penetrating the hardest of hearts, captivating the attention of the restless and convincing the confused that God is able to save anybody.

Bishop Jones pastors the **City of Refuge** Church in Gardena (by Los Angeles), and upon his installment as pastor, the membership was approximately 3,300. Some view him, as going from “known to well known” and it is evident by the increase of membership well over 10,000.

Bishop Jones articulates a strong statement that offers the only real choice to the problems of the day - salvation through Jesus Christ. While reflecting on the idea that religion seemed to offer no real relevance to the changing climate of the times, he founded Noel Jones Ministries. The primary focus of this ministry is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through the Word via media resources.

Bishop Jones has a few books awaiting publication, and many **audio and video** cassettes. He can currently be seen on **BET** during his “Fresh Oil” broadcast that airs each Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m., and on **The Church Channel** Friday evenings at 8:30 p.m. Pacific Time.

BIOGRAPHIES

Philip S. Hart, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Urban Land Institute Los Angeles

Philip Hart is Executive Director of the Urban Land Institute Los Angeles (ULI LA) District Council. ULI LA was the first of the 62 ULI District Councils in the United States, Europe and Asia to reach 2,000 members. Hart also owns two small businesses located in Hollywood, CA., one a real estate development company and the other an entertainment company. Hart has been a ULI member for over 20 years, initially joining when he lived in Boston, MA. With ULI LA, Hart has been active with the Executive Committee, the Program Committee, and the Inner City and Urban Policy Committee which organizes the annual Urban Marketplace. Hart served as a Senior Fellow at UCLA's School of Public Affairs during the 2007-2008 academic year.

Hart took early retirement as Professor of Sociology and Director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, in 2002, after over 25 years with the University. While at UMass, Boston, Hart was a Senior Fellow with the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs. On two separate occasions Hart was a Visiting Research Sociologist at UCLA's Ralph Bunche Center for African American Studies.

Hart has served on several ULI advisory services panels, including in New Orleans in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina. The ULI report, "New Orleans, Louisiana: A Strategy for Rebuilding" is helping guide the redevelopment of this devastated city. In early 2006, Hart served on a ULI panel in Washington, D.C. assisting that city with its \$100 million, 4-year 'Great Streets' initiative. In early 2008, Hart served on a ULI panel in Albuquerque, New Mexico which focused on the redevelopment potential of the 27-acre Albuquerque Rail Yards. Hart has also co-sponsored ULI advisory services panels, including a 2001 visit to Hollywood, CA. That ULI report "A Strategy for Hollywood's Comeback" has been guiding redevelopment of this iconic neighborhood.

Hart has a 25+ year history as a real estate developer. He is master developer of CrossTown Industrial Park (CTIP) in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood. This 75-acre urban business park which opened in 1980 has high tech, biotech, university, office, retail, industrial, textile manufacturing, hotel, public utility and residential tenants. Hart was project manager for the \$60 million, 5,000-seat West Angeles Cathedral in South Los Angeles which was dedicated in April 2001. Hart is Senior Advisor for the West Angeles Building Strategy Team for the West Angeles Campus and West Angeles Village developments. Hart is part of a team involved with brownfields remediation and development in Carson, CA.

BIOGRAPHIES

Rev. Mark Whitlock, II

Christ Our Redeemer AME Church

Rev. Mark E. Whitlock II, pastor of Christ Our Redeemer AME Church, has committed his life to serving God and the Church. Christ Our Redeemer started with five members on the UCI Campus and under Rev. Mark's leadership has grown to a worshipping congregation of one thousand seven hundred members. Recently, Rev. Whitlock has completed the construction of a seven hundred seat sanctuary and community/business center in Irvine, CA.

Rev. Whitlock serves as the Director of Corporate Partnerships for AME denomination. The AME denomination has seven thousand churches with over three million members internationally.

As a minister and the economic development officer for the Fifth District of the AME Church, Rev. Mark is the Chief Executive Officer of Nehemiah Ministries, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) funding vehicle that offers mortgage loans, transportation services, health programs, training and technical assistance, and legal services.

Mark is the Executive Director for the USC Pass the Mantle Program (PTM), a summer intensive course offered by USC. PTM is designed to equip clergy and lay leaders for better mission conceptualization, proven church management methods, community organizing concepts, and how to find money lines for economic development.

Before his full-time call to the ministry, Mark served as the founder and executive director of FAME Renaissance, the economic development arm of First AME Church, Los Angeles. As the executive director Mark raised over two hundred million dollars in grants, loans, venture capital, and contracted service initiatives that created over four thousand jobs with South Los Angeles.

The FAME Renaissance Venture Capital Fund and Commercial Loan programs funded over one two hundred small businesses. FAME Renaissance's Home Loan Program has created over two hundred new home owners and has trained over two thousand home loan candidates.

Mark also co-founded the Richard Allen Men's Society (RAMS), an organization with over 3,500 men who exemplify positive African American images. The RAMS are best known for contributing to reclaiming the community from gangs and drug dealers and for closing thirteen rock cocaine houses while leading young men away from drugs and gangs.

Mark's corporate experience amply equipped him to lead the 21st century church realm of economic development. He was a former Vice President of Wells Fargo Bank and Vice President of the Commercial/Industrial National Division, Chicago Title Insurance Company. His responsibilities included providing title insurance and financing for commercial buildings, resorts, hotels, and shopping centers. His clients included attorneys, developers, and financial institutions.

Boards, Honors, and Accomplishments: Rev. Mark is a member of several Boards of Directors including the Harvard Divinity School's Summer Leadership Institute, Chairman of the Community Advisory Board for KOCE Public Television, President of the Oden Commission, Board Member of OC Human Relations Commission, Board Members of the First American Corporation, Board member of the Southern CA Edison Company, and Board Member of the Genesis Los Angeles. He is a CA Commissioner for the CA Film Commission and a Los Angeles City Commissioner for financing small businesses.

He continues to lecture at the USC, Harvard University School of Divinity, University of Kentucky, Indiana University, USC, UCLA Anderson School of Business, California State University Los Angeles, many high schools and churches. Rev. Mark has also lectured at the White House Faith-Based Conferences. President Bush applauded the work of Rev. Mark at FAME Renaissance by visiting the historic FAME Renaissance Center.

Rev. Whitlock is a recipient of national, statewide, and local community development awards. Rev. Whitlock was honored by the City of Los Angeles for raising over two hundred million dollars for community development at his retirement from First AME Church's FAME Renaissance Project.

He is a frequent guest on television and radio shows including Night Line, Good Morning America, the Today Show, CNN News, ABC, CBS, and NBC News.

Rev. Whitlock has completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Laverne with a major in religion. He is completing a Master of Divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has received an honorary doctorate from American International University. He is happily married to Attorney Hermia Shegog Whitlock for twenty years. They have two sons, Mark and Devin.

BIOGRAPHIES

Hyepin Christine Im, CPA, MBA

Ms. Hyepin Im is the Founder and President of Korean Churches for Community Development (KCCD) whose mission is to help faith-based and community based organizations increase their capacity in economic development work to a greater scale. KCCD has organized and reached out to the 4000 Korean American churches in the United States and has hosted two conferences with the White House bringing together a national delegation of Asian American faith leaders to learn about the faith-based economic development. In 2001, KCCD hosted a historic faith-based conference held in conjunction with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Over 350 participants attended this first time conference with coverage from all major Korean media.

Under Ms. Im's leadership, KCCD has implemented many innovative initiatives in the Korean/Asian American community. Among KCCD's successes include winning and implementing a historic \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to serve at risk and adjudicated Asian youth for workforce development. KCCD was also successful in winning a national grant through the Corporation for National and Community Service to place 26 Americorps*Vista members in multiple states. Other initiatives include a homeownership initiative which has educated over 4000 potential homebuyers, healthy marriages initiative, financial literacy, an ongoing weekly radio program, a national database and research study on Korean American churches, as well as various other ongoing training programs. In research, she has completed a research study that focused on Korean American Churches and Domestic Violence. The white paper, titled, "Strengthening Families in the Korean/Asian Immigrant Community" was supported by the U.S. Department of Labor. Currently, she is involved in three other major research projects sponsored by Fannie Mae Foundation, Ford Foundation and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on various topics from asset building and retirement planning practices, to marriage strengthening efforts and Korean church community development efforts and potential.

For her expertise, Ms. Im is a frequently invited speaker at conferences including conferences sponsored by the White House, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao's Opportunity Conference, the Christian Community Development Association, National Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Labor, Asian Americans for Equality, and the Southern California Conference of AME Churches, amongst many others. For her expertise, she has been featured on many national media outlets including CNN, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, National Public Radio and other media including Korean media.

Ms. Im has been involved in various professional capacities related to faith-based economic development work including her work as a venture capitalist for Renaissance Capital Partners, an affiliation of First A.M.E. Church and Hancock Park Associates. In her role, she played a key role in the establishment of this innovative fund with its double bottom line approach to creating not only a financial return but also a social return. Prior to Renaissance Capital Partners, Hyepin was the Sponsorship Manager for California Science Center, a three phase \$265 million expansion and renovation of the California Museum of Science and Industry. In her position, Hyepin secured corporate sponsors. In addition, Hyepin, served as the Community Gifts Manager at the Science Center, and was responsible for the institution's community outreach effort in developing and implementing strategies that created a sense of ownership in the new California Science Center from the members of the community, including the faith-based community. Her cultivation and solicitation efforts resulted in gifts and participation from a broad spectrum of the community.

Ms. Im is involved in several civic activities related to faith-based economic development. Most recently, Ms. Im also serves as the Chair for the Interfaith Faith Committee for State Senator Mark Ridley Thomas. Ms. Im has been a frequent speaker at numerous events on leadership, community service, fundraising, faith-based economic development and on the Asian American community. Hyepin Im served on the Steering Committee of Churches United for Economic Development, a "chamber of commerce" for churches involved with economic development. In September 2000, Ms. Im was one of the faith leaders invited to lead a prayer at the opening session with Andrew Cuomo, past Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, at the HUD sponsored economic development conference. She was also invited to address the Southern California AME Conference in fall 2000. In 2007, Ms. Im was invited by the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiative to be a plenary speaker for their national conference.

Ms. Im has also been consulted for international activities. Ms. Im was responsible for mobilizing a national and international support for helping Korean Americans reunite with their families in North Korea. Through her leadership, over 140,000 signatures have been collected online. (www.click2asia.com/reunion) In addition, in working with members of Congress and Senate, Ms. Im was successful in having a related resolution pass unanimously in both houses. Most recently, Ms. Im was invited by the South Korean government to be part of the National Prayer Breakfast and the World Christian Parliamentarian Association.

BIOGRAPHIES

Lula Bailey Ballton

West Angeles Community Development Corporation

Lula Bailey Ballton is President and Chief Executive Officer of the *West Angeles Community Development Corporation (CDC)*, a non-profit, community-based Development Corporation that operates within the greater ministry of *West Angeles Church of God in Christ*, under the pastorate of *Bishop Charles E. Blake*. The mission of the CDC is to “*Increase social and economic justice, demonstrate compassion and alleviate poverty as tangible expressions of the kingdom of God, through the vehicle of Community Development.*”

As Founder and Executive Director, Mrs. Ballton has led the West Angeles CDC to receive numerous awards for cutting-edge programs: a Best Practices Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its signature affordable housing project, West A Homes; a Presidential Commendation for its dispute resolution programs; and state, county, and city-wide recognition for its social service, housing and economic development programs.

Lula Ballton’s commitment to education and advocacy for the poor and the oppressed began at the feet of her Christian family as a child. She participated in the famed “*March on Washington*” with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at the age of 15 years old. After graduating with honors from Central High School in Springfield, Missouri, she attended *California State University at Los Angeles*, where she earned a *Bachelor of Arts* in Speech Communication. After completing undergraduate studies, she was admitted to the prestigious Graduate School of Speech at *Northwestern University*, where she was one of only three women to receive a *Master of Arts* in Communications in 1973.

With solid academic preparation, Mrs. Ballton embarked on a very successful career as an educator, and, over the next 14 years, held positions as a professor and/or administrator at Delaware State University, the City Colleges of Chicago, Los Angeles City College and El Camino College and Loyola Marymount University. Mrs. Ballton also served as Director of Education for the Chicago Urban League, where she developed policy, programs, and constituency. She founded the League’s Whitney M. Young Scholarship and the Edwin Berry Loan Fund.

Mrs. Ballton returned to academia as a student, in 1987, and earned a **Juris Doctorate** in 1990 from **UCLA School of Law**. She practiced law at the California State Department of Justice; Civil Rights Division, and Bryan, Cave, McPheeters and McRoberts, a large corporate firm. From there, she entered full-time ministry at the Union Rescue Mission. She is a 1999 Graduate of *Harvard Divinity School* Summer Leadership Institute (SLI); and, now, is both an SLI lecturer and advisory board member. Currently, a public arbitrator on the neutral roster of NASD Dispute Resolution.

Mrs. Ballton continues to be active in civil rights, and was or is a member of the following Boards and professional organizations: Harvard Divinity School, Leadership Council; Wells Fargo Community Advisory Board; Southern California Edison Advisory Board; National Congress of Community Economic Developers; Christian Community Development Association, Board of Directors; Churches United for Economic Development, Board of Directors; Black Women Lawyers, School Search, Inc.; Habitat for Humanity, Board member LA Chapter.

Mrs. Ballton is a sought-after speaker, and an accomplished writer. Her articles appear in numerous publications, including the **National Black Law Journal**. Her most-recent contribution is **Sittin’ Around Bein’ Brown**, a collection of short stories and “**Sister to Sister**” **Volume II: - Devotions for African American Women** (Judson Press). She has received numerous honors and awards, “*LA Business Journal’s* nomination for “**Women Who Make A Difference**”, “**Women of Excellence 2001 Award**”, by *The National Center for Strategic Nonprofit Planning and Community Leadership*, the *Jennessee Center’s Silver Rose Award*; National Association of Black History’s “**Women of Distinction Award 2001**”, Los Angeles Urban League’s Distinguished “**2005 Community Service Award**”; **November 2005**, honored by The California Reinvestment Coalition; selected as a KJLH Radio “**2006 Proven Achiever**”; was an honoree at *The Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce’s (GLAAACC) 13th Annual Economic Awards Dinner*; “**Deborah Award**”, **June 2007** by the Anti-Defamation League; was chosen as a panelist on University of Southern California’s panel, sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation, titled “**Pentecostalism’s Spiritual Capital in Los Angeles**” in **October 2006**; honored by *Women In Ministry of the Southern California Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* at a “**Living Legends Luncheon**” in **September 2006** for her life-changing work in the community.

Mrs. Ballton has been married to Carl Ballton, President and Chief Operating Officer of the Union Bank Foundation and Senior Vice President of the Union Bank of California, for the past 38 years. She is the mother of three: Jabari, Issa Carl, and Micah, and the grandmother of Caleb and Cameron.

BIOGRAPHIES

Lori R. Gay

President and CEO

Lori R. Gay is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services (LA NHS), a non-profit lender, developer, and neighborhood revitalization corporation. She has worked in the community development field for over 20 years, and has focused her efforts on rebuilding impoverished communities and creating mechanisms for community empowerment and ownership.

Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services Inc. (LA NHS) is a non-profit committed to creating lifelong homeowners and stable communities for families of modest means throughout Los Angeles County. Over the last 23 years, LA NHS has developed and rehabilitated more than 11,000 housing and commercial units, educated and counseled over 87,500 families, created 175 block clubs, employed 200 neighborhood youth, and invested more than \$1.8 billion back into some of Los Angeles' toughest neighborhoods. As a lender to these underserved communities, Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services has maintained a loan portfolio with a 3% or less delinquency ratio and *no foreclosures*.

Ms. Gay has served on numerous boards and community coalitions which further social policy agendas and implementation of community development initiatives. Some of her activities have included serving as Chair of the California Organized Investment Network (COIN), former Board Member of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and member of the Gas Company Consumer Advisory Council. Ms. Gay is a member of the Washington Mutual National Advisory Council, is a National NeighborWorks® Association board member, and is a board member of Adonai International Ministries.

Ms. Gay has worked for LA NHS since 1990, holds an M.B.A. degree from Pepperdine University and a B.S. degree in Development, Resource and Consumer Economics from the University of California at Davis. She is a licensed minister, is married to Bob Gay, and has five children.

BIOGRAPHIES

David T. Levinson

David Levinson has written movies, plays, television shows, novels, newspaper articles, theme park attractions, and advertising. Among the companies he's written scripts for are The Walt Disney Company, 20th Century Fox, NBC-Universal, CBS, and Showtime, among many others. His play *The Great Wall*, part of the Ensemble Studio Theatre – L.A.'s First Look Full-Length Festival, was produced in Los Angeles in 2002. Another play, *Early Decision*, had its world premiere at the Edgemar Center for the Arts in 2005. He recently co-wrote the pilots *Bailey Weggins* for ABC and *Revenge, Inc.* for the USA Network, and is currently co-writing *Mercy* for Sony Pictures. He also wrote the "Leona" segment of the new film, *Tolerance*. David is also the founder and executive director of Big Sunday. On *Big Sunday '08*, 50,000 volunteers of all ages, from all over the greater Los Angeles area, volunteered at more than 325 different non-profit sites. David and Big Sunday have been honored by and received awards from many organizations, including The Religious Action Center, Hillside Home for Children, The Asian-Pacific Women's Center, The Western Center of Law and Poverty, and The Association of Fundraising Professionals. Both David and Big Sunday have been profiled in many places, including the *Wall Street Journal*, a front-page story in the *Los Angeles Times*, and on the *NBC Nightly News*. *Big Sunday Week-end '09* will be on May 2 and 3, 2009. (www.bigsunday.org – check it out.).

Tomas Duran

Tomas Duran is responsible for identifying and structuring real estate development opportunities in underserved communities throughout the greater Los Angeles region, as well as managing our New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) program, working closely with the Genesis LA New Markets Tax Credits Program Community Advisory Board, which oversees recommendations for projects funded through NMTC. Mr. Durán brings over 10 years of experience in real estate and community-based planning for various non-profit organizations to our company.

Holder of a Master's degree in Planning from the University of Southern California, Mr. Durán is also a graduate of the USC Lusk Center for Real Estate's Ross Minority Program in Real Estate. Before joining Genesis LA, he developed an award winning community-based planning model for Gateway Cities Partnership Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Durán also serves on the City of Whittier Planning Commission.

BIOGRAPHIES

Byron Smith

Founded and pastored Faith Mission CME Church in 1999. At the time Faith Mission lacked members, funding, and a church facility. Acting through a vision from the Lord, Rev. Smith worked as a local preacher, spreading the gospel door-by-door. Through his dedication Faith Mission was able to move into a physical building, build up a congregation of 71 members, and raised funds to the sum of five thousand dollars in only three short years. Rev. Smith's work was recognized, and in 2001 Bishop Dotcy I. Isom, Jr. ordained Rev. Smith as a traveling deacon. Rev. Smith's continued work with Young Adults led to his appointment as the Young Adult President at the CME Conferences in Southeast Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Over the course of his three years in this position he developed the First Annual Conference Young Adult Retreat. The Retreat-conference in Bloomington, Illinois in May of 2002 featured the theme "Capture the Vision Today, so our Church can Live for Tomorrow." Two years earlier he had brought the message at the Youth and Young Adult Communion Service at Jubilee Temple CME church in Chicago Il.

In 2002 Bishop Dotcy I. Isom, Jr. reassigned Rev. Smith, sending him to the West Side of Chicago where he pastored Hamlett-Isom CME church for seventeen months. During that time 37 new members joined the church and the church experienced a period of excitement and growth. A new sound system was installed, new carpeting was placed throughout the church, and a new parsonage was purchased in Broadview Il. Rev. Smith worked full time at the University of Illinois while ministering Hamlett- Isom CME to start a Wednesday night Bible Class, as well as several outreach ministries, such as the One-Church One-School partnership program. All of which was accomplished while commuting 2 hours and 45 min. from Champaign to Chicago Il. ! Just a year later, Bishop Paul A.G. Stewart Sr. ordained Rev. Smith as a traveling Elder.

Although while working in Chicago, Rev. Smith continued to participate in community service activities in Champaign. In 2003 he worked faithfully with the Ministerial Alliance for Champaign-Urbana and the surrounding areas as the Co-Director of Education for the youth and Young Adults. He frequently lent his voice as a motivational speaker to this and other projects. Rev. Smith shared the role of Bible Study class leader at a Work release Center and Transitions Prison for inmates in the City of Champaign-Urbana.

Rev. Smith's dedication and faithfulness to the ministry at Carter Temple caught the eye of Bishop Williamson, who was spiritually led to invite Rev. Smith to Pastor the historic Calvary CME church in Pasadena Ca. Within three years of moving to California, Calvary has increased spiritually and numerically by leaps and bounds casting the vision of Developing "Triple T Leaders", which consist of leaders giving ten percent of their time, talent, and treasures for the life of the church. The properties both the church and the parsonage has under gone great improvements from the inside and out. Holding on to the theme "Moving from Good To Great" the Jesus challenge.

On the Horizon

Pastor Smith still has many plans for Calvary CME Church. These include inspiring the entire Pasadena Unified School District with One Church One School Partnerships, implementing tutoring programs through the city between church's and schools and inspiring lives to turn to Christ. Rev. Smith's goal's for the future is to become a better servant of the Lord, a great husband, father, son, grandson, finish his Master's Degree at Claremont, and be a great pastor for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

On the Horizon Pastor Smith still has many plans for Calvary CME Church. These include inspiring the entire Pasadena Unified School District with One Church One School Partnerships, implementing tutoring programs through the city between church's and schools and inspiring lives to turn to Christ. Rev. Smith's goal's for the future is to become a better servant of the Lord, a great husband, father, son, grandson, finish his Master's Degree at Claremont, and be a great pastor for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

BIOGRAPHIES

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker

President

Ward Economic Development Corporation

“Jackie” Dupont-Walker, for over 35 years, has been a professional in the public and private sectors that has included agency management, administration, community education, public policy, economic empowerment, urban development & planning, politics, religion, social work, leadership development, substance abuse, and systems review. Mrs. Dupont-Walker’s strong commitment and calling to “faith centered and empowering” development has made her a prophetic voice locally and nationally.

She is the founding president of Ward Economic Development Corporation and for 20 years has led it in developing over 217 units of affordable housing, encouraging indigenous leadership, creating neighborhood networks, facilitating job creation, conducting asset mapping, and spearheading an intergenerational community building effort.

In addition to WEDC “Jackie” serves as the AME Church international Social Action Officer; LA City Commissions advisory & policy including 912 Charter Review Commission, LA City Housing Authority; RED, Inc (founding a regional faith CDC); Mid-City PAC & LaFayette Square Assn (community advocacy); Calif State Commissions including Calif Housing Partnership Corp (president); Black Women’s Forum, Communities for Accountable Re-investment (empowerment movements); Delta Sigma Theta – Century City (Social Action chair) and a host of civic organizations. “Jackie”, a life long member of the AME Church is an officer of Ward AME Church in LA where she serves on the Board of Stewards (benevolence chair), chair – Social Action Commission, Sunday School co-teacher, Lay and Missionary ministries.

Commissioner Dupont-Walker’s personal quest is inspired by her husband and partner, Buford “Sonny” Walker and their desire to make the world a better place for their blended family of 8 adult children, 24 grands and 5 great grands.



BIOGRAPHIES



Rev. Douglas E. Nelson

Chief Executive Officer
Levitical Network, Inc.

He is well respected having worked as the City of Los Angeles' first Faith-Based Liaison in the City Council and the Mayor's Office of Antonio R. Villaraigosa. He also formerly served in a similar capacity for Los Angeles City Council member Martin Ludlow. He has worked in the philanthropic community with the LA84 (formerly Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles) and UniHealth Foundations recommending more than \$7 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and hospitals. He was also formerly employed by World Vision as the Los Angeles Director of Housing, Urban & Economic Development.

Douglas draws his experience from working with Political and PR Campaigns, (Kathleen Brown for Governor; Karen Bass for Assembly; Propositions 1B and C Housing Bond Measures; and Villaraigosa For Mayor 05' among others) Major Sporting and Community Events (96' - 99' Rose Bowl Games, 96' Summer Olympic Games Torch Relay and Mayor's Antonio R. Villaraigosa's Inaugural Day of Service). Rev. Nelson is very active in the community and serves on several boards including; To Help Everyone (T.H.E.) Clinic, Board Chair; Korean Churches for Community Development (KCCD), Vice Chair; Oregon State University Alumni Association, Board Member; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Member; and serves as an Associate Minister at his church, McCoy Memorial Baptist Church, LA, CA.

Rev. Nelson received his B.A. in Political Science and Liberal Studies from Oregon State University. He has also matriculated and received certifications from Gonzaga University's School of Law, Undergraduate Minority Law Program; Harvard Divinity School's, Summer Leadership Institute; and the University of Southern California's, Ross Minority Program in Real Estate. He is currently matriculating in the M.DIV (Masters in Divinity) Program at Faith Evangelical Seminary, Tacoma, WA.

THANK YOU

The Levitical Network wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to Paul Turner, Victor Ramirez, Susan Stefanoski and the Citi family; Melody Winter Nava, Michele Estebo and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Family; Frank J. Quevedo, John J. Kennedy, Dennis Thurston, Rocio Contreras-Regalado and the Southern California Edison Family; Clemente Gonzalez, Thomas Bookman and the Aetna Family; Tyrone Freeman, Victoria E. Avery-Browder and the SEIU – Healthcare ULTCW Family for their financial support, fidelity and faith in this venture.

Douglas E. Nelson also extends grateful gratitude to the guest speakers and expert panelists who participated in the Crafting Faith Conference including: Steve Soboroff; Bishop Noel Jones, Scott Chaplan and the combined City of Refuge staff; Dr. Philip Hart, Rev. Mark Whitlock; and Rev. Aaron Iverson; Rev. Hyepin Im, Dr. Lula Ballton, Rev. Byron Smith, Lori Gay, and David Levinson; Neelura Bell, Tomas Duran and Jackie Dupont-Walker and his entire family for their support and care.