

THIS
MONTH
AT THE



Griffith Observatory

Mar. 16:

Public Star Party

Free public star parties are held monthly with the assistance of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society and the Los Angeles Sidewalk Astronomers at the Griffith Observatory. They are a chance for the whole family to look at the sun, moon, visible planets, and other objects, to try out a variety of telescopes, and to talk to knowledgeable amateur astronomers about the sky and their equipment.

Lines for each telescope and all viewing must be completed by 9:45 p.m.

**2 PM – 9:45 PM
FREE!**

Information:
www.griffithobservatory.org/pstarparties.html

Support the
Griffith Observatory!

Consider joining the Friends of the Observatory (FOTO)

(213) 473-0879

www.friendsoftheobservatory.com

City Owned. City Run. City Proud.



LAABP Officers and honorees, from left: Terrence Montgomery, Shelia Brooks-LeFridge, David Jackson, Mignon Washington, Carmen Steward, Brenda Anderson, Councilwoman Jan Perry, Bob Blake, Sharon Loudd, Janeshia Robinson and Henry Chisom.

LAABP

Happy Birthday, LAABP!

Black employees association celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Story by Cora Jackson-Fossett, LAABP Past President, Public Works, Club Member; Photos by Haywood Galbreath

The Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP), Inc., observed its 40th anniversary during a gala celebration Dec. 12 in City Hall.

The organization honored Councilwoman Jan Perry, Club Member, the mayor's South L.A. Director Brenda Anderson, and Bob Blake, owner of Bob Blake and Associates. All three were saluted for their long-standing contributions to the LAABP.

In addition, the LAABP past presidents were saluted. The honorees were Donald Conkrite, Mary Fletcher, Cora Jackson-Fossett, newly elected Assemblyman Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Steven King, and Jeffery Whitmore. Also, Myran Cotton and Samuel Allen were recognized as distinguished members. Entertainment Executive Darice Rollins served as host.

"This occasion also doubled as a fundraiser for the LAABP Scholarship Fund," said LAABP President Terrence Montgomery. "Over the past years, we have been fortunate to distribute more than \$100,000 in awards to assist college-bound students.

"We're pleased that the donations we received will allow us to increase the number of students receiving scholarships in 2013."

In addition to Montgomery, LAABP officers are DeMarlo Sims, First Vice President; Dewanna Sharp, Second Vice President; David Jackson, Third Vice President; Amber Johnson, Recording Secretary; Mignon Washington, Corresponding Secretary; and Sharon Loudd, Treasurer. The Directors—at-Large are Henry Chisom, Shelia Brooks-LeFridge, Janeshia Robinson and Carmen Steward.

Many City executives attended the celebration, including Deputy Mayor Larry Frank, Deputy Mayor Monique Earl, Public Works Commissioners Valerie Lynne Shaw and Capri Maddox, retired Community Development Dept. (CDD) General Manager Richard Benbow, Interim CDD GM Greg Irish, Inspector of Public Works John Reamer, and Fire Chief Brian Cummings.

Fellow City association officers also participated, including James Edwards of the Oscar

Joel Bryant Foundation, Marilyn Washington of the Water and Power African American Employees Association, Carmen Hawkins of the L.A. Black City Attorneys Association, and Commander Armando Hogan of the Stentorians Fire Fighters Association.

The beverage and buffet bar was catered by W.P. Miller, and entertainment provided by Mark Allen Felton and Friends.

Incorporated in 1972 and approved by the City Council as the official representative of people of color who are City employees, LAABP remains at the forefront of the battle for equal employment within the City's work force.

"This Association will continue to move forward and work diligently to bring about greater opportunities for 'people of color' to enhance their careers and to pursue progressive achievement in City service through examination preparation and advances in technology and to increase the number of positions with ultimate responsibility at the management level," President Montgomery said.

"Our mission is to motivate, encourage and educate individuals, to realize their dreams and move forward in their career within City government. We join the many employee organizations as we face the challenges of today and tomorrow. We continue our efforts to ensure fairness and equal opportunity. Together we can accomplish what none of us can do alone."

Special thanks to Richard E. Lee, who contributed to this article.



From left: LAABP members Lance Bailey, Susan Huntley, Suzette Robottom and guest.



From left: LAABP members Mike Fong, Tammie Murray and Brenda Threatt, all members of the Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's staff.



From left: Retired CDD General Manager Richard Benbow and Interim CDD GM Greg Irish.



Myran Cotton, Club Member, (second from left) accepts cheer from her mother and friends for receiving the LAABP Distinguished Member Award.



LAABP member Rio Broussard-Williams (second from right) of Public Works/Accounting, Club Member; Dolores Lovric of Public Works/Accounting; Ching Ilagan of Public Works/Accounting; and Angela Collins of Public Works/Street Lighting, Club Member.



Deputy Mayor Larry Frank.



From left: Public Works Commissioner Valerie L. Shaw, Inspector of Public Works, Club Member, John Reamer, honoree Brenda Anderson, Commissioner Capri Maddox, and LAABP President Terrence Montgomery, Club Member.



LAABP Past Presidents, from left: Assemblyman Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Steven King, Mary Fletcher, Club Member, Cora Jackson-Fossett, Club Member, Jeffrey Whitmore, Club Member, Donald Conkrite and LAABP President Terrence Montgomery, Club Member.



From left: Distinguished Member honoree Samuel Allen, Club Member, and LAABP Director David Jackson, Club Member.