



# Monterey Bay Black Folks Event Calendar

Week of Mon Nov 30 through Sun Dec 6, 2020

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## **About the Monterey Bay Black Folks Event Calendar**

The purpose of the Monterey Bay Black Folks Event Calendar is to connect the Black Community of CSU Monterey Bay with the local Black Communities of the Greater Monterey Bay Area. The idea for the calendar came out of the community forums organized as part of CSUMB's annual Super Saturday Black student recruitment events. The Calendar is edited by Steven Goings with new editions being released every Monday. To submit an event for possible inclusion, please send to [AfricanQuazar@gmail.com](mailto:AfricanQuazar@gmail.com). The submission deadline is Friday at 6pm.

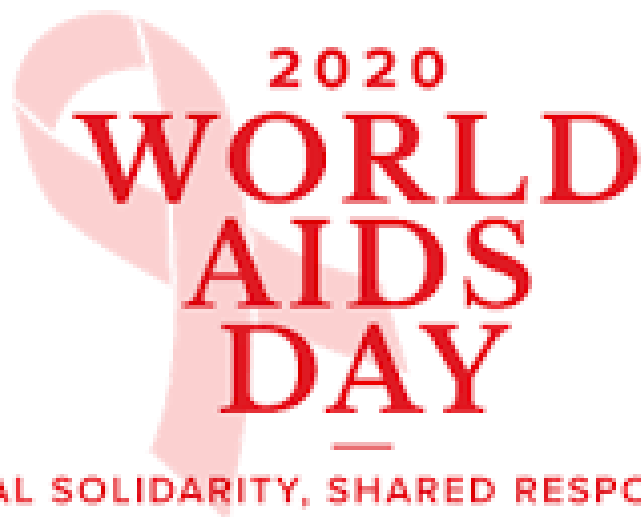
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## **Editor's Note:**

Throughout this newsletter, [Blue Underlined](#) copy (including above!) indicates a searchable link.

## **December 1 is...**

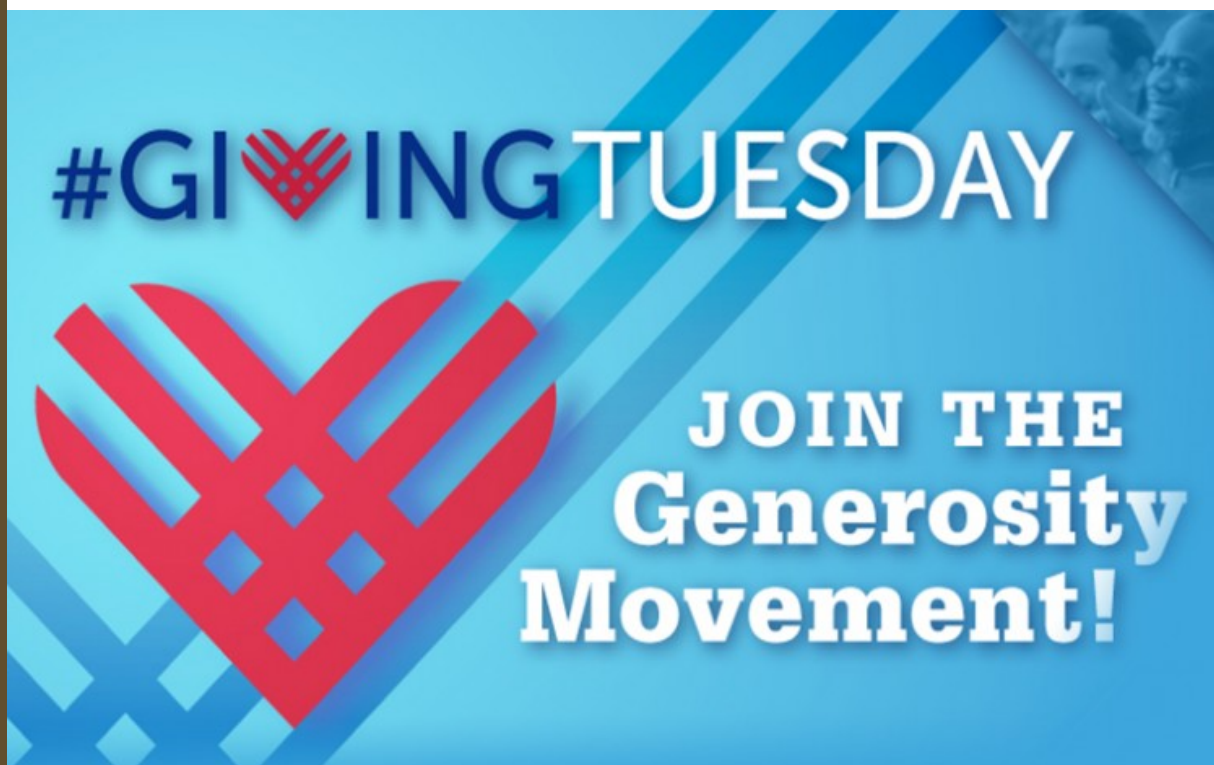
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December 1 is also...

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**For Giving Tuesday, the Monterey Black Folks Calendar encourages readers to support these Black serving organizations...(to donate, click on links below)**

- [Monterey County Branch NAACP](#)
- [The Village Project, Inc.](#)



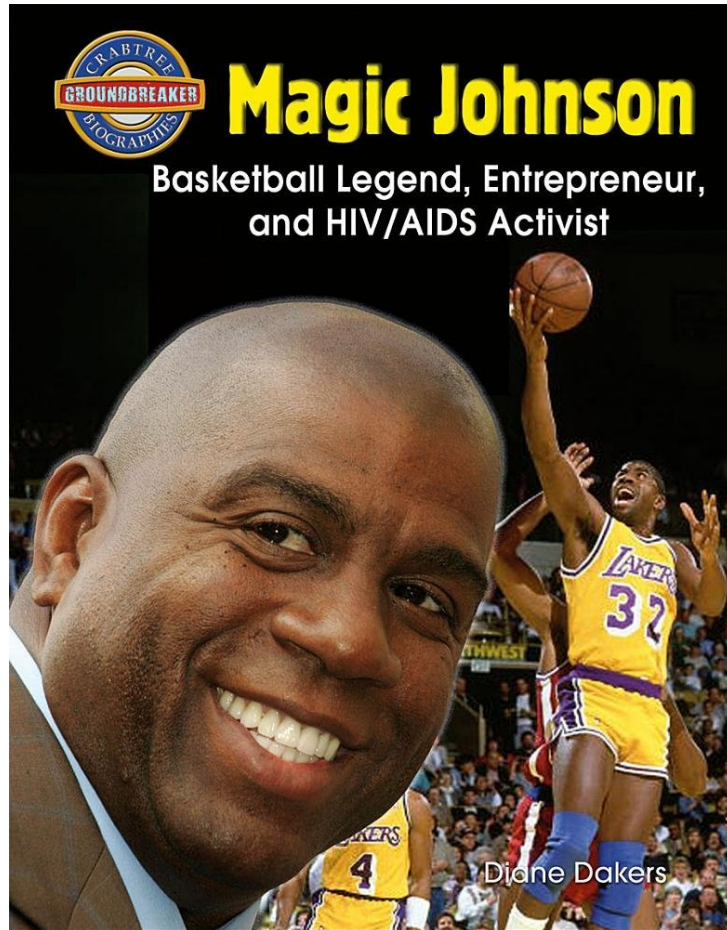
- [The Links, Inc.](#)
  - [Emmanuel Church of God in Christ](#)
  - [Friendship Baptist Church](#)
  - [Greater Victory Temple](#)
  - [Mt. Nebo Church](#)
  - [New Hope Baptist Church \(Seaside\)](#)
  - [New Hope Baptist Church \(Salinas\)](#)
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## Black & HIV Positive Profile: Magic Johnson

Black celebrities  
that died from  
complications  
related to

HIV/AIDS include choreographer Alvin Ailey, tennis player Arthur Ashe, gangsta rap founder Easy E, news anchor Max Robinson, and disco star Sylvester. Magic Johnson, arguably the most famous Black celebrity to contract the disease, has been living with HIV for nearly 30 years! This [Sportscasting.com article](#) from [Irwin Nunez](#) explains how...

*Magic Johnson* is considered one of the greatest basketball players of all time. In the pre-Michael Jordan era of the '80s, it was hard to escape *Johnson's* name whenever basketball came up. As one of the most dominant players to ever play the game, his *rivalry with Larry Bird* is the stuff of legends. Then, in 1991, Johnson shocked the sports world to its





core with his HIV diagnosis.

Earvin “Magic” Johnson came from a close-knit, hard-working family in Michigan. Coming out of high school, Johnson *showed immense talent* and was highly-recruited by top tier schools such as UCLA, but he instead chose Michigan State because it had a high level of talented players already on the team. It was during college that he learned how to successfully play point guard under coach Jud Heathcote.

After a prolific college career, Johnson cemented himself as the top college player in the country in 1979 when he faced and defeated Bird and Indiana State. As a result, he was the *No. 1 draft pick* that year. Beginning in 1979, Johnson played a total of 13 seasons, all with the Lakers. He became the most dominant name in the NBA, averaging an incredible *19.5 points and seven rebounds* per game.

Johnson won the NBA championship four times, *established LA* as a dynasty, played in 12 All-Star games, and participated in the 1992 Olympics as part of the fabled *Dream Team*. His pro career also spawned one of the greatest, ongoing rivalries in sports between the Lakers and the Celtics.

**In 1991, Johnson dropped a bombshell on the NBA by announcing his HIV diagnosis. At the time, a lot of misinformation surrounded the AIDS epidemic. The perception was that the disease was a walking death sentence. Because of it, Johnson announced his *immediate retirement*** at the same press conference.

At the time, he said he didn’t want to hurt the sport or put other players at risk. Johnson didn’t stay away, however. After a *four-year hiatus*, Magic returned to the Lakers for a final season in 1996, armed with more knowledge and resolve about his disease.

Many people at the time didn’t understand the nature of HIV and expected Johnson to not only be highly contagious but to also wither away quickly. HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, works more slowly, however. AIDS, which stands for “Auto-Immune Deficiency Syndrome,” destroys a person’s immune system over time, causing them to eventually die from other conditions that their body isn’t equipped to fight off.

**In the years *since his diagnosis***, Johnson has defied the stereotypes surrounding HIV and AIDS. He’s been surprisingly candid about how he got the disease, admitting to hundreds of random, unprotected sexual encounters while on the road during the ’80s.

Although other players have spread the rumor that Johnson was gay or even bisexual, *Johnson* has dedicated himself to educating people about



HIV and AIDS. He did a series of promotional videos in the '90s and even wrote a book on the subject. It's been almost 30 years since his initial diagnosis. The question often comes up, "How does he stay so healthy?" The truth is, there isn't really a secret, according to *Live Science*. Johnson is not alone in having survived with the disease for so long. The key is preventing HIV from progressing into AIDS through a cocktail of medications and enzymes that arrest its development. If anything, the only secret is that Johnson was on the pioneering edge of that cocktail, and had early access to what has become a standard treatment in the modern era.

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## Steven's Take... on living with HIV/AIDS in the Black (Christian) Community



Shortly after graduating from Seaside High School in 1981, I saw a segment on the local nightly news about some sort of mysterious disease that was killing gay men. The original acronym for what eventually became HIV, the virus that causes AIDS was GRID -- Gay Related Immune Deficiency. The stigma related to homosexuality was immediately -- and perhaps permanently -- affixed to the disease itself. The word Gay itself was quickly turned into a punchline acronym; Got AIDS Yet?

For the first few years, when the disease was only associated with men who have sex with men, most national religious organizations were officially silent on the subject. But supported by religious doctrines that condemn homosexuality, clerics preached in pulpits around the world that AIDS was divine punishment for "the love that dare not speak its name".

African Americans are widely understood to be the most religiously oriented ethnic group in the United States. Not only that, most Black Christians belong to religiously conservative churches that interpret the Bible





literally.

Regardless of whether Black folks became infected with HIV/AIDS through same sex contact or through other means, Black church communities have too rarely been a source of comfort for the afflicted or their families.

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, the keyword being ACQUIRED. I acquired HIV in 1990 when it was understood to be an absolute death sentence. My life expectancy was 18 months. 30 years later, I am absolutely convinced that I am still alive only because of the grace of God's divine intervention.

I believe that one of the purposes of my extended life is to promote healing from the impact of oppressive and dehumanizing belief systems and to empower the religiously disenfranchised to seek spiritual connection and fellowship.

Like human beings themselves, beliefs systems are rarely all good or all bad, but they are always consequential. Notwithstanding partisan claims to the contrary...

[\*\*\*Click Here\*\*\*](#) to read full article...

**... On the other hand,** two of our most celebrated local African American activists, Helen Rucker (Catholic) and Ruthie Watts (Protestant) have been active in HIV prevention in Seaside and on the peninsula for years. Like the



|Mrs. Helen Rucker & Mrs. Ruthie Watts

parable of the Good Samaritan, these extraordinary activists (both in their 80s) seem to have internalized the Christian message of comforting the afflicted quite a bit better than the majority of Black pastors.

And so, on this World AIDS Day, I express my utmost gratitude for Mrs. Rucker and Mrs. Watts who have made it immeasurably easier for people like me to live and thrive gay people with AIDS in the Black communities of Seaside and the Monterey Peninsula.

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## Remembering Akin Miller!

**James "Akin" Miller**



**Oct. 19, 1948 - June 26,  
2018**

"The Mighty Warrior has Returned Home." That is the spiritual meaning of the name "Akinwale" which was given to James Miller in 1990 on a trip to Nigeria. And indeed Akin returned home in the afternoon of June 27, 2018. As a Buddhist, Akin's spiritual teacher Khenpo Karten Rinpoche performed the Puja (a Tibetan prayer ceremony) for Akin on August 13th, 2018 at the Manjushri Dharma Center, Pacific Grove.



A long term survivor of HIV/AIDS since 1985, Akin always credited Dr. Geraldine Taplin for saving his life when others had given up on him. In early June 2018, suffering from kidney failure, Akin decided to let nature take its course. Due to the remarkable life he has led, the people he has touched, and the contributions he has made, friends, loved ones, and community members flocked to see him in his remaining weeks.

At the age of 14, James was within 50 feet of the podium where Dr. Martin Luther King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the 1963 March on Washington. In his late teens, James was inspired by Muhammed Ali's refusal to participate in the war in Viet Nam and became a conscience objector and lifelong pacifist. From 1974 to 1981, Mr. Miller was an assistant professor of architectural design at Howard University and spent his summers traveling the world. Since then, he has visited all of Western Europe, many African nations, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Argentina, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic.

As a guest speaker at the 1992 Annual United Way Luncheon, James (now Akin) came out publicly as a gay African American man living with AIDS. Akin's action directly challenged the stigmatization of gay men and people with HIV/AIDS. His heroic action put a human face on AIDS in Monterey County and helped dispel the notion that AIDS was only a disease of White gay men. Akin then co-founded African American HIV/AIDS Wellness Services in order to fight to ensure that a portion of federal, state, and local resources be directed into the African American community which was largely being ignored at the time.

In 1995, Akin took a life-changing journey to Nepal where he became a Tibetan Buddhist. From then on, Akin maintained a connection with a



local Buddhist community through the Manjushri Dharma Center in Pacific Grove and worked out his dharma through his community activism. As a leading local peace and civil rights activist, Akin served on the boards of the Monterey Peace and Justice Center as Art Gallery Manager, African American HIV/AIDS Wellness Services as President, and the Monterey County Branch NAACP as Health Committee Chair. He was also involved for many years with CSUMB's Visual and Public Arts department. On Feb 22, 2018 he received the African American and Civil Rights Champion Award from the NAACP@CSUMB and in June 2018 he was named Parade Marshall Emeritus by Monterey Peninsula Pride.

We love you and are thankful for you Akin, **"Black IS Beautiful!"**

Rest in Peace.

-- Steven Goings (obituary writer)

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# In the Spotlight: NAACP Monterey County Branch



## ELECTION RESULTS FOR NAACP MONTEREY COUNTY BRANCH #1049

We are pleased to announce the names of our new Officers and Executive Committee members for 2021-2022 (2-year term).

### OFFICERS

- President YVONNE THOMAS
- 1st Vice President MARY CLAYPOOL
- 2nd Vice President CYNTHIA HYATT
- Secretary PAT SPENCER
- Assistant Secretary JEANNE GAVRIN
- Treasurer JAMES BLACK
- Sergeant at Arms BEN COOPER



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Edward Armstrong
- Linwood Eady
- Steven Goings
- Rosalyn Green
- Barbara Johnson
- Victoria Lee
- A. Dean Martin
- Annalisa Mitchell
- Lori Black Ogene
- Guadalupe Perez
- John Smith
- Monica Mapp Smith
- Josh Stewart
- Ruthie Watts

**Officers and Executive Committee members will be installed at the first General Membership meeting in January 2021.**

### NAACP Monterey Branch #1049

#### CONTACT

**General Email:** mcbnaacp1049@att.net

**President's Email:** ythomasnaacp1@gmail.com

**Address:** NAACP Monterey County Branch,  
P.O. Box 782, Seaside, CA 93955

**Official Website:**

<http://montereynaacp.org/>

**Official Facebook Page:**

[NAACP Monterey County Branch #1049](#)

**NAACP  
Executive  
Committee  
Member and  
MPC  
Governing  
Board Trustee,  
*Rosalyn Green*,  
wants the Black  
Community to  
know about  
these free online workshops...**



[Click here to register!](#)



**Space is first-come, first-serve, so sign up today!**

## **Coaching Emotions**

Wednesday, December 02, 2020

6:00pm-9:00 pm

This workshop uses neuroscience-informed practices to provide a focus on ways to understand the relationship between trauma and emotional response and its impact of brain development in children. The workshop is designed to build skills in handling emotions and self-regulation. The participants build knowledge and practical strategies that will improve emotional regulation.

## **Ways to build and improve-Resilience**

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

6:00 pm-9:00 pm

This workshop uses neuroscience-informed practices with an emphasis on the development of emotional resilience in oneself and children. The workshop is designed on the three building blocks of emotional resilience, enriching personal relationships, and optimizing the brain in learning. The participants build knowledge and practical strategies that will improve executive function skills.

**Monterey Peninsula College in partnership with From The Root: Educational Consulting Firm is pleased to offer Supporting Families: Combating Crisis Fatigue (SFCCF) workshops.**

These workshops are designed to support families during these challenging times. They will give families effective tools to not only survive but thrive as we move forward to 2021. The workshops offer practical skills to enhance parents' abilities to support their children who may be experiencing hardships including trauma. Their focus is the development of parent skills to help children cope in healthy ways, develop resilience, and preserve mental health.

Our families are living through the most vulnerable times and collective traumatic experiences (a psychological effect shared by a group of people of any size, up to and including an entire society) ever faced in the past century due to the pandemic. The need to locate and support parents through trauma-informed and trauma-sensitive training to work from the root of psychological needs is imperative. It is one of the essential keys to preserving mental health and optimizing resilience for our families in Monterey County. Participation is welcomed by all parents or caregivers of school-aged children living in Monterey County. The workshops will be offered virtually and are free!

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# **In the**



# Spotlight:

## Justin Cummings, First Black Mayor of Santa Cruz



*This article first appeared in Patch by staff writer Courtney Teague on Dec 12, 2019*

Justin Cummings, a biologist and the first African American man to serve at the city's helm — was sworn in as mayor at Tuesday's city council meeting. Cummings, formerly the vice mayor, was sworn in alongside new Vice Mayor Donna Meyers.

Cummings was sworn in to heavy applause from an enthusiastic audience. In remarks delivered shortly after, he reflected on musings that came out of a pair of retreats city council members attended earlier this year. They held a shared vision for Santa Cruz: a community inclusive of all people, family-friendly, environmentally sustainable, affordable and safe.

"As the mayor of Santa Cruz, I am committed to working with you, the community, for continuing to make this vision our reality," he said.

Cummings said he was committed to finding common ground with those who have differing perspectives and working within the city's means. Cummings, a Democrat, spoke of a need to find solutions for homeless people that balance compassion with public safety, create programs that keep tenants housed but still allow landlords to make a profit, increase density, provide incentives for those who create affordable housing and make the city more environmentally sustainable.

He spoke of his pride for a community that elected the first openly lesbian woman and first two African American to the council in 2018, even though a fraction — *1.4 percent*, according to the U.S. Census Bureau estimates — of its residents are black or African American. Cummings said he followed in the footsteps of Mayor Martine Watkins, the first biracial woman to serve in the city's highest office.

"This truly reflects our commitment as a community to electing officials not based on their race, age or gender, but based on the content of our character," Cummings said.

He ended his remarks by encouraging young people to get civically engaged, apply for commissions and speak up at city council meetings. His term is set to expire May 2022.



# Truth Be Told -- Dirrick Williams:

There is more to racism than we like to believe. When it comes to knowing what it is, how it works, and how to defeat it, one of the best defenses is not only knowing what it is but what it is not! This episode will be available for viewing pleasure soon.



## *My Name Is Sawyer but They Call Me Black*

I, too,  
have a  
name and  
it's not  
black.





I am the *black* man they forget.  
They send me to  
blue *collar* jobs *Although* I  
can't *complain* because it's *better*  
than *prison* or death, But I laugh, I  
am *educated* and in debt but they  
used to beat *people* like me for  
my *smartmouth*. I grow *strong* as  
they mock my skin.

Tomorrow, I'll be at the *table* When  
I *bring* back *BlackWall* Street.  
Nobody'll dare Say to me, "You're  
only a *black* man," Then.

Besides, They'll see how strong,  
intelligent, and *beautiful* I am And  
be ashamed—

My name is Sawyer, but they call me  
Black.

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## Upcoming CSUMB Events:

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CSUMB  
Diversity  
Celebration  
Series -



# World AIDS

# WORLD AIDS DAY

**Day:** Applying  
Lessons Learned  
from HIV to  
COVID-19



**December 1,  
2020**

**5:30pm — 7:30pm, Zoom**

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

Francisco Ruiz of the CDC and Dr. Scott Rhodes, Professor of Social Science and Health Policy at Wake Forest join us to identify ways to approach the COVID-19 pandemic using lessons learned from HIV/AIDS over the last four decades.



Francisco Ruiz is the Team Lead for the National Partnerships Team within the CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP). Mr. Ruiz provides leadership for the development and maintenance of partnerships initiatives that advance DHAP's national HIV prevention goals. Mr. Ruiz serves on the leadership team that provides strategic direction for the development and dissemination of scientific, statistical, visual, and technical communications on HIV. Prior to joining CDC, he served as Senior Manager at the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) where he provided guidance to state and local health departments on how to address the disproportionate impact of HIV among the most impacted communities.



Dr. Scott D. Rhodes is professor in and chair of the Department of Social Science and Health Policy at Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. He also directs the Program in Community-Engaged Research within the Wake Forest Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Dr. Rhodes has published more than 250 articles and book chapters on the health of marginalized populations, including immigrants, Latinx persons, and sexual



Additionally, he served for two years as Chair of the National Latino AIDS Action Network. Mr. Ruiz received a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies from Loyola University Chicago and an M.S. in Urban Policy Analysis and Management.

and gender minorities. He and his research team are considered experts in community-engaged research, including community-based participatory research (CBPR).

## UROC Speaker Series

Join us for our upcoming UROC Speaker Series event featuring Dr. Justin Cummings, an environmental sensor technician and drone operator for the UC Natural Reserve System's California Heartbeat Initiative and Mayor for the City of Santa Cruz.

**December 3, 2020**  
**4:00pm — 5:00pm, Zoom**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Madame C.J.  
Walker/  
Robert F.  
Smith Black  
Professionals  
Series**

THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES CENTER

### UROC SPEAKER SERIES

presents

Justin Cummings, PhD  
Mayor at City of Santa Cruz, Director for UCSC  
Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program



Please join us virtually  
**December 3, 2020**  
at 4pm PST

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT [UROC@CSUMB.EDU](mailto:UROC@CSUMB.EDU)



**Presents:**

# **Nate Cameron**

**The Center for  
Black Student  
Success invites  
you to think  
outside the box  
and dream BIG  
in order to  
create the professional career and future you want.**



**December 3, 2020**

**6:00pm — 7:30pm**

**[Register for Virtual Event](#)**

## **About Nate Cameron:**

From honing his vocal talents amongst church family as an 8-year-old choir member to earning his place in a historic brotherhood connecting lauded musicians like Jon Batiste, Trombone Shorty, and Terrance Blanchard as a section leader of the St. Augustine Marching 100, the privilege of creating music has always provided Nate with a close-knit group of artists who inspired, educated, and protected each other. Even now, in his role as tour and production manager for *Tank and the Bangas*, Grammy-nominated winners of the 2017 NPR Tiny Desk Contest and longtime members of Nate's musical family, his greatest joy is in the moments when they explore the depth of connection music facilitates across country borders and language barriers.

In partnership with his wife, Krystle Sims-Cameron, Nate co-founded *Them People Productions*, an organization that provides artist support services and produces Black artist-centric events designed to strengthen community ties and promote cultural healing. As the director of *Ropeadope Record's* new Artist Advocacy Group, he empowers modern



music makers to connect with talent brokers and venues worldwide so they can build and maintain a fan-based communities across the globe. As founder of *The Oakland Second Line Project*, Nate brings free cultural community experiences that brings the authentic African roots of Second Line History and spirit of community building from New Orleans to POC communities of Oakland, Ca. And, most recently, having returned to his hometown after nearly a decade of immersing in, learning from, and supporting artist communities throughout the country and abroad, Nate has begun a new chapter of mentoring and preparing local creators to take advantage of the economic frameworks he's concurrently helping to develop.

## Cultural Programming

The Center for Black Student Success brings relevant cultural programming to campus by welcoming authors, artists, scholars, and performers from throughout the African Diaspora to enrich the CSUMB experience with concerts, workshops, exhibits focused on engaging and inspiring Black students.

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## Upcoming Community Events:

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The Monterey Bay Chapter of the UNA—USA &  
The Bahá'í Faith Communities of Monterey County  
warmly invite you to join us for the . . .

## 2020 Human Rights Day Online Event

Saturday, December 12, 2020 | 12 noon–1:30

Human Rights Day commemorates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Honoring recipient of the  
**2020 Bahá'í  
Human Rights Award**

**Ruthie Watts**



Tireless human rights and social justice advocate, Ms. Watts is the recipient of: the NAACP Western Area Unsung Hero Award; Woman of the Year by the CA State Legislature; Key to the City of Seaside by Mayor Lance McClair; 2017 Monterey County NAACP President's Award; 2018 African American and Civil Rights Champion by the NAACP CSUMB Student Chapter; ACLU Ralph B. Atkins Civil Rights Award; KSBW Jefferson Award; Seaside Citizen of the Year Award; Woman of Achievement, and many others.

With Special Guest Speaker

**Ellen Snortland**

Writer, Actor, Producer

"Providing Global Education for Young People Locally  
Impacts Human Rights Globally"

Winner of the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award at the 75<sup>th</sup> UN Anniversary Event, hosted by the UNA—USA Southern CA Division. Ms. Snortland has attended several United Nations world conferences and annual UN meetings as an NGO delegate, self-defense advocate, and journalist.



**Register for this Zoom event at:**

<https://bit.ly/38t8Gdk>

This is a Zoom online event and will require you to register in order to attend. There will be a place for you to sign on with the password you will be given at the time you register.

For more information, contact UNA Monterey Bay  
P.O. Box 4114, Monterey, CA 93942  
unausamonterey.wordpress.com Email: unamontereybay@gmail.com  
Ph. 831-275-0781

## *Click Here*

to Register for 2020 Human  
Rights Day Event honoring Mrs.  
Ruthie Watts



# Useful Links:

**New! County Employment Opportunities:** Monterey County Supervisor Elect Wendy Askew encourages community members to "register for job announcements from the County - and to apply for anything that seems interesting so that your resume gets into the system."

## **Black Business Directory**

- Here is something the Monterey County Branch NAACP is working on. You can **send your entries directly to lbogene@yahoo.com**

## **Black Community Leader/Activist Archive**

- Check out the list and add your bio and photo to it.

## **Black Court Support Volunteer Sign-Ups**

- We all know the so-called criminal justice system treats our folks much more harshly than others, sometimes just having community members show up at court can make a difference in how things turn out.

## **Black Web Sites**

- Check it out or add your favorite to the list

## **Black Speakers Bureau for Classroom Presentations**

- With so few African Americans working in our K-12 and higher education systems, our kids have too few opportunities to see professionals and role models who look like them. We are looking for Black community members and professionals who can be called on to be occasional guest speakers in local classrooms.

## **Updated! CSUMB Black Staff & Faculty**

- Just the basic public contact and position info

## **Monterey Bay Historically Black Churches**

- Check out the current list of churches, update existing entries or add new ones.

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**Monterey Bay Black Folks Weekly Event Calendar**  
**Submit to AfricanQuazar@gmail.com**