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The Second Annual Delilah Beasley Tea

Celebrating Change Agents

in Community Leadership



Delilah Leontium Beasley
September 9, 1871 - August 18, 1934

Sunday, September 15, 2013

2 PM to 4 PM

Pardee Home Museum Gardens

672 11th Street, Oakland, California

About Delilah Leontium Beasley

“American historian and Oakland Tribune newspaper columnist Delilah Leontium Beasley was a true Bay Area unsung hero. Born in 1871, Ms. Beasley's journalism career began by writing short pieces for a black Ohio newspaper called the Cleveland Gazette. In her over 50-year career, Ms. Beasley spent 25 years as a resident of Oakland. And, California and Bay Area communities are forever changed as a result of the far-reaching effects of her transformative work. She spent nine years scouring University of California, Berkeley library archives to produce *The Negro Trail Blazers of California*, a groundbreaking and prolific chronicle of California Black History throughout the 1800s. Published in 1919, her book focused on the achievements and sacrifices of black pioneers including prominent stories of women. From 1925 to 1934, she continued her commitment to championing communities of color as the first African American woman to be published regularly in a major newspaper. As an Oakland Tribune columnist, Ms. Beasley gained local acclaim for her positive stories about the Black community and her ability to reach mainstream audiences. She was also a longtime local activist who fought for integration in every level of civic and social life, including helping to spearhead California's first anti-lynching bill. Delilah Beasley should be in the halls of every museum and on the pages of every American history book.”

[Excerpt] [Congressional Record Volume 158, Number 124 (Friday, September 14, 2012)] [Page E1528] Hon. Barbara Lee of California in the U.S. House of Representatives

About The Annual Delilah Beasley Tea

On March 31, 2012, POWER invited the East Bay community to celebrate Women's History Month at Mills College where historian Annalee Allen presented the stories of five Oakland women who had brought recognition to our city: author Gertrude Stein, architect Julia Morgan, poet Ina Coolbrith, past Mills College president Aurelia Reinhardt, and journalist Delilah Beasley. Few who were present that day had ever heard of Delilah Beasley. How could this be when her accomplishments were so significant? Inspired to make Delilah's story known, Richelle Lieberman conceived The Annual Tea to honor and celebrate this remarkable woman. The Annual Tea also presents an opportunity for the community and POWER to honor and celebrate extraordinary Oakland citizens and institutions whose vision and leadership inspire, enrich, transform and empower our communities. At the inaugural event, Oakland Mayor Jean Quan proclaimed September 15, 2012, Delilah Leontium Beasley Day.

Members of the Oral History Project shared stories of local feminist pioneers and Daphne Muse, author and activist and past Director of the Mills College Women's Leadership Institute, spoke about electing a U.S. woman President in 2016.

March 31, 2012 Mills College *Celebrating Historic Women of Oakland* On this occasion, POWER introduced and welcomed Teresa Deloach-Reed, Oakland's first woman Fire Chief and the nation's first African-American woman fire chief in a metropolitan city. The program featured a keynote address by Molly Murphy MacGregor, Co-founder and CEO of the National Women's History Project; a talk on the lives of architect Julia Morgan, journalist Delilah Beasley, poet Ina Coolbrith, author Gertrude Stein and past Mills College president Aurelia Reinhardt by historian and Oakland Tribune columnist Annalee Allen; a lecture on the history of women's studies by Mills College Professor Priya Kandaswamy; a screening of “Sisters of '77,” a documentary video of the First National Women's Conference, followed by a talk by Diablo Valley College Professor Lenore Gallin; and a performance by choreographer Lois Flood as the dancer Isadora Duncan. It was this event that inspired The Annual Delilah Beasley Tea.

September 15, 2012 Pardee Home Museum Gardens *The First Annual Delilah Beasley Tea* Retiring Bay Area icon Belva Davis, a trailblazer in the field of journalism, was honored and presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award. POWER also welcomed Girls Inc. of Alameda County, whose new headquarters are in Oakland, and its CEO Linda Boessenecker paid tribute to philanthropist Lois De Domenico. The program included remarks by The Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith Sr. and POWER's Sandy Threlfall who spoke on the life and work of Ms. Beasley; The Hon. Willie Brown Jr. who introduced Ms. Davis; and Congresswoman Barbara Lee whose uplifting speech included a reading from the Congressional Record of her remarks before the U.S. House of Representatives “honoring the inaugural Ms. Delilah Beasley Tea and honoring Ms. Belva Davis for a lifetime of achievement.” Music was provided by members of the Oakland Symphony, the Oakland Youth Orchestra and Angela Dean-Baham of the Oakland Lyric Opera. The City of Oakland presented a Proclamation by Mayor Jean Quan making September 15, 2012 Delilah Leontium Beasley Day.

March 23, 2013 Mills College *Dames of the Round Table: Today's Women Making History* Realizing the value of bringing women together to learn from and connect with each other, POWER organized this forum and networking event where 28 women, representing various fields and industries in both the business and non-profit sectors, gathered around a table to share stories of themselves and their work, and of how they came to become who they are today. The women spoke of fears and dreams, mistakes and successes, challenges and triumphs. Dr. Elñora Tena Webb, President of Laney College, delivered the keynote address, and Zahrah Farmer, producer and host of KRON TV's lifestyle show “Days with Zahrah,” served as moderator.

P rogressive	A COALITION OF WOMEN LEADERS	
O akland	Annalee Allen	Judy McCord
W omen for	Kathleen Cha	Carol Norberg
E mpowerment &	Gloria Fangon-Hitz	Louise Rothman-Riemer
R eform	Lenore Gallin, PhD	Gloria Taylor
	Cynthia Guevara	Sandra Threlfall
	Richelle Lieberman	Dawna Williams

About Progressive Oakland Women for Empowerment & Reform

Progressive Oakland Women for Empowerment & Reform (POWER) was formed in October 2011 by the organizers of the Oakland Suffrage Parade, which included leaders of the Alameda County Historical Society, American Association of University Women, California Women's Agenda, Cinnamon Girl, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Emerge California, League of Women Voters and the National Women's History Project. This group of volunteers was brought together by longtime activist Sandy Threlfall — initially, as an ad hoc committee to plan the centennial celebration of women’s rights to vote in California. But, through months of weekly meetings, new friendships were forged, and after the suffrage parade, many committee members decided to band together to continue producing events to celebrate, connect and transform the lives of women: past, present and future. The name POWER was created by Gloria Fangon-Hitz and Richelle Lieberman and became the banner name of this coalition of women leaders. As we present The Second Annual Delilah Beasley Tea, we would like to share with you what POWER has accomplished in the two years since it was established:

October 2, 2011 Lakeside Park Oakland Suffrage Parade Centennial A parade around Lakeside Park at Lake Merritt, organized and led by a committee of community leaders from various women’s organizations, to celebrate 100 years of women having the vote in California. Following the parade was a program that included remarks by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, Supervisor Nate Miley, Mayor Jean Quan and Councilwoman Libby Schaaf, and entertainment by the Montclair Women’s Big Band. The celebration continued with an ice cream social at the Veterans Memorial Building. This event marks the beginning of the formation of POWER.

March 3, 2012 Oakland City Hall A Century of Empowered Women—Let’s Keep Making History An event in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. Robert Cooney presented an illustrated lecture on his book *Winning the Vote, The Triumph of American Women Suffrage Movement*.

Progressive Oakland Women for Empowerment & Reform

presents

**The Second Annual Delilah Beasley Tea
*Celebrating Change Agents
in Community Leadership***

Lenore Gallin, POWER
Mistress of Ceremonies

Welcome

The Life and Work of Delilah Beasley

Sandra Threlfall, POWER

Recognition of Honorees

Cora Manese Tellez

Introduction by Rob Bonta
California State Assembly, District 18

Mills College

Remarks by Dr. Kimberley L. Phillips
Provost and Dean of Faculty

Closing

Cora Manese Tellez

With a 30-year career in healthcare finance and delivery, Cora is a nationally recognized industry leader. She is President and CEO of Oakland-based Sterling Health Savings Account (HSA) and Sterling Self Insurance Administration (SIA). Prior to Sterling, Cora was President of Health Net's Health Plans Division, CEO of Blue Shield of California-Bay Region, Vice President and Regional Manager at Kaiser Permanente of Hawaii, and President and Chair of Prudential Healthcare Plan of California.

Based on her strong belief that consumer directed plans will have an enormous impact on the affordability and accessibility of health care, Cora founded Sterling HSA in 2004 and Sterling SIA in 2010. Sterling HSA is a leader in tax-advantaged health care benefits called health savings accounts (HSAs) and is one of the nation's top HSA administrators. The company helps employers solve problems around insurance affordability while providing employees with tools and financial incentives to consume health services thoughtfully. Sterling is also a pioneer in providing financial incentives to promote healthy behavior in employees. Cora has taken her vision of health care nationwide, speaking about the need for reform.

Cora's vision and leadership go beyond the workplace to the community. In 2012, Cora launched the Gift of Learning and Gift of Health program to encourage philanthropy among Filipinos in the U.S. towards needy relatives in the Philippines. In the 1970's, Cora co-founded Asian Community Mental Health Services and Filipino Advocates for Justice and, in 1996, led the development of the Filipina Women's Network.

Cora serves on several private and non-profit boards, including HMS Holdings, Inc., Practice Fusion, and the Institute for Medical Quality. Previously, Cora served on the boards of Crescent Healthcare, Bank of Hawaii, Glendale Federal Bank, Cal Fed Bank, Catellus Development Company, First Consulting Group, The S.H. Cowell Foundation, Mills College, Holy Names University and Philippine International Aid.

Cora has been recognized for her professional and community endeavors by such organizations as Women Healthcare Executives, the Asian Pacific Fund and the Anti-Defamation League. In April 2013, the Bay Area Tumor Institute honored and presented Cora with a Living Example Award.

Cora received her B.A. from Mills College and M.A. from California State University. She is married to artist Pablo Tellez. Their family includes their sons Andres and Alex, daughters-in-law Katy and Denise, and grandchildren William & Joanna.

Mills College

Mills is an independent liberal arts college for women with co-ed graduate programs. Combining traditional liberal arts with new educational initiatives that recognize the value of diversity, the curriculum is designed to reflect the importance of global issues, provide an understanding of the natural world, and enhance opportunities for women in their developing roles throughout society. Mills provides a dynamic learning environment where a faculty of nationally and internationally respected scholars and artists is dedicated to developing the strengths of every student and preparing them for lifelong intellectual, personal, and professional growth in a global, multicultural society.

Mills College boasts a rich history as a leader in women's education. It was founded in Benicia, California, in 1852, two years after California was admitted to statehood and the same year the city of Oakland was established. The University of California and Stanford had yet to exist, and miners, farmers and merchants wanted to educate their daughters without sending them on the perilous journey to East Coast schools.

The Young Ladies Seminary, as it was originally known, was established by private citizens and it gained a strong reputation under the direction of Oberlin graduate Mary Atkins. With a vision of equal education and opportunity for women, missionaries Cyrus and Susan Mills bought the Seminary in 1865, renamed it Mills College, and moved it in 1871 to its current location in Oakland, California.

Among the first institutions of higher learning for women, Mills is the oldest women's college west of the Rockies. Over the decades, Mills has earned the distinction of also being the first women's college to offer a computer science major (1974) and a 4+1 MBA degree (2001); the first business school in the West for women (2005); and the first MFA program in book art and creative writing in the nation (2009).

Always a leader in the arts, Mills was among the first liberal arts colleges to offer a modern dance degree (1941), and it became the national center for modern dance outside New York City. The Center for Contemporary Music, dedicated in 1967, is a preeminent center for electronic music.

Experimentation, leadership, social responsibility, and creativity are the hallmarks of a 21st century Mills education.