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Drummers Tony Martin and DonCosta Seawell perform at Black History Month opening ceremony held in the Metropolitan Water District boardroom. *Photos by Laura Kloth.*

Metro, MWD Black History Month Celebration Begins

- Metro's African American Employees Association partners with Metropolitan Water District Black Employees Association to launch month-long celebration
- **UPDATED:** [Download BHM event calendar here](#)



MWD's Janice Hill leads the audience in a song during the Black History Month opening ceremony.

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2010) Black History Month was officially launched today with empowering speeches, songs and African drums during the opening ceremony held at the Metropolitan Water district Board Room.

More than 100 people attended to listen to speeches by MWD Board Member John W. Murray and MWD Chief Administrative Officer Gilbert Ivey as well as other leaders.

"We have to take into account those who came before us ... they came before us and sacrificed so that we could be where we are," said Ivey, who was introduced as the highest ranking African American in the water district community.

More than a dozen events are planned for the month as part of a

Schedule of Events: Metro African American Employees Association (AAEA) teams up with MWD's Black Employees Association (BEA) to

sponsor a full roster of events for Black History Month.

- Tues. Feb. 2, noon. **Opening Ceremony** with MWD Director John Murray; MWD CEO Gilbert Ivey (Invocation) and Songs/African Drums. MWD Boardroom.
- Wed. Feb. 3, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: **FILM *Emperor Jones*** with **Paul Robeson**, MWD Room 1/102
- Thurs. Feb. 4, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: **FILM *Richard Pryor Clips*** MWD Room 1/102
- Monday, Feb. 8, all day: **Change 4 Haiti** collection jars in MWD Cafeteria.
- Tuesday, Feb. 9, Noon: Buffalo Soldiers, Invocation - MWD Boardroom.
- Wed., Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m.: "Men in Black" **Fish Fry** - MWD Cafe
- Thurs., Feb. 11, 11 a.m. - **Flower Sale** MWD Rotunda.
- Tues., Feb. 16, noon – **Medical Perspectives** from Kaiser Permanente. MWD Room 1/102.
- Wed., Feb. 17, 11 a.m. – **Marketplace / Jazz Concert / Bar-be-que** MWD courtyard.
- Thursday Feb. 18, noon – **Presenter: Author Barron Littlefield** "Your Little Black Book - African American - Patents and Inventions" then play the **Black History Trivia Game**. MWD Boardroom.
- Friday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. (offsite in Hollywood) [Fountain Theatre](#): ***The Ballad of Emmett Till***.
- Monday, Feb. 22, noon- **Black History Trivia Game finals** with celebrity host **Tyrone Fance**. MWD Boardroom.
- Tues., Feb. 23, noon – **Poet's Corner**: Tribute to Harley Searcy. MWD Room 1/102.
- Wed., Feb. 24, 7 a.m. – **Bake Sale** MWD Cafe
- Wed. Feb. 24, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: **FILM *Brother John*** with **Sidney Poitier**. Popcorn & Red Soda in MWD Room 1/102
- Thurs. Feb. 25, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: **FILM *Brother John*** with **Sidney Poitier**. Popcorn & Red Soda in MWD

collaborative celebration by Metro's African American Employee Association (AAEA) and the Metropolitan Water District's Black Employees Association (BEA).

Key organizer Susan Dove, Metro Senior Contract Administrator, said Metro's role has been to create a "heightened awareness" of the contributions African Americans have made throughout history.

Dove acknowledged Metro's CEO Art Leahy for his commitment to diversity, as well as the commitment of other executives like Metro's Interim Chief Operations Officer Lonnie Mitchell.

Dove encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming events and to check out the award winning "[America I Am](#)" exhibit now making its run through Los Angeles at the California Science Center.

MWD employee Benita Horn said she would be sending daily reminders to employees about the upcoming events hosted by MWD and Metro because "I want this kind of wonderful attendance at all of the events."

As part of the ceremony, Metro's own Tony Martin and DonCosta Seawell played African drums and MWD's Janice Hill led the audience in singing, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Room 1/102

- Thurs., Feb. 25, 4:30 p.m. – **MGM: Mixer, Games & Music** - MWD Gallery
- Fri., Feb. 26, Noon – **Wills & Living Trusts**. Presentation by Atty. Adina T. Turman. MWD Room 1/102.