

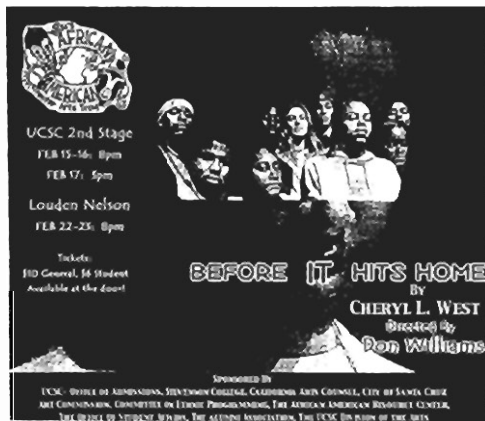
Second Saturday Net

Feb 2002

POST- KWANZAA OPEN HOUSE

Many thanks to those of you who came by to say *habari gani* in December, and all are again invited to come share in the observance of Kwanzaa, as an ongoing strategy for community building, on the second Saturday in February. Last month's gathering involved much stimulating exchange about how we can best support the education and development of Black and Mixed Heritage youth in the Santa Cruz area, while also contributing in some way to the basic needs of young people in Zimbabwe. Come join the conversation!

SATURDAY, FEB 9TH
1pm - Midnite
131 CYPRESS PARK

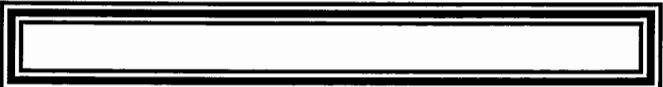


AFRICAN AMERICAN THEATER TROUPE

UCSC 2nd Stage
Feb 15-16 8pm Feb 17 3pm

Loudon Nelson Center
Feb 22-23 8pm

\$10 General \$6 Student /Available at the door



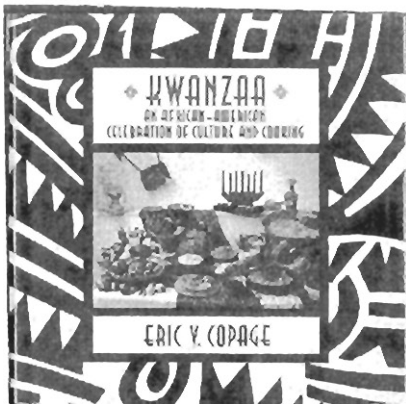
Betsy "Elizabeth" Kelly
Leaning over a young charge



Emma Elizabeth Floyd
photos c. 1920

[Excerpted from Africans Here and There—Tales of our Family Women by Nubra Elaine Floyd] The day Betsy Kelly finally did leave the home place, the grown folks had all gone off to camp meeting and had left her to look after the younger children. When it got dark, she put them to bed and then lit out for the ferry boat landing, where she managed to secure passage across the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore. Once there she was able to get work as a live-in domestic, and, at some point, decided to change her name to Elizabeth. As our Grandmother later told it, she ran away because she didn't want to be taking care of everybody's children, and she was determined not to have a lot of her own. She never learned to read or write, but she had the gift of sight, and it often served her well. Of course, things didn't work out quite the way she planned, since taking care of other people's children was exactly what she ended up doing most of her life. Still, she managed to have far fewer of her own than was typical, in those days, and although providing live-in child care for well to do White families kept her from spending much time with her own two, she did her best to make up for it with her first grandchild and namesake, who was a most remarkable little girl.

Let's Celebrate African American/Black History Month by sharing our family stories!



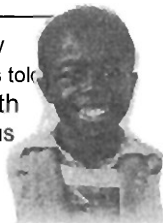
Kwanzaa: A Celebration of African American Culture and Cooking
by Eric V. Copage
NY: Morrow 1991

SCPL: 641.59 C79

***** PAULA POWELL RECALLS*****

Back in the seventies, when we first started celebrating Kwanzaa in the community, it was a kind of radical thing to do. It was no Hallmark holiday. It was a more about getting together at somebody's house and celebrating our African-ness and affirming our connection to one another...In those days, if you saw somebody on the street, during the Kwanzaa time, you said "Habai Gani!" –and they said "Jambo!" Back then, we all spoke to one another, because people in the South had manners, and we still need to do that. We need to acknowledge one another not only during Kwanzaa, but whenever we see each other.☺

Leon's Story by
Leon Tillage as told
to Susan L. Roth
NY: Farrar Straus
Giroux 1997



Leon's Story

by Chioke Earl

SCPL: JB Til

LEON WALTER TILLAGE

I'm doing a report on the book "Leon's Story". It is about a boy who grew up on a farm in Raleigh, North Carolina. This boy was named Leon, and he had eight sisters and brothers. His family lived in a broken down house behind Mr. Johnson's house. Mr. Johnson was the person who owned the farm that Leon's father worked on. Leon's father grew tobacco, cotton, and sugarcane. Everyday Leon and his brothers would have to help their father out on the farm. They would carry a stick so that when their father would fling dirt on the tobacco they would flip it over with that stick. Everyday Leon and his sisters and brothers would walk four miles to school. The school had no stove or running water, they had to get their water from a well. Leon and his brothers and sisters had to bring their own food to school and wash their own dishes. After school they had to walk home and avoid being beat up by the older white boys and girls. All the whites were not bad back then. Some of the whites that Leon writes of saved him and his brothers and sisters from some of the other whites. When Leon was fifteen his father and mother went and got him a birthday present and on their way back some drunk white boys were chasing them. His father pushed his mother in a ditch to

Saturday Class 2002

Identity & Achievement: Enhancing Black Student Development

March 9th
9am – 5pm

For more information call
(831) 427 3718

Q&A?

Comments or questions about anything in this issue of Second Saturday Net? Like to make a contribution of funding? Like to submit art or copy? Please mail to:

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Second Saturday Network
Post Office Box 8347
Santa Cruz, Ca 95061

This issue written and edited by Nubra Floyd w/family photos courtesy Valerie Shepherd - February 2002

keep her from getting hit. The boys then ran over Leon's father twice and killed him. There was nothing done about Leon's father's death. When Leon was older he heard of the Ku Klux Klan coming to his town. By then, Leon lived in Fuquay, North Carolina. In "Leon's Story" he tells of how the klansmen would burn crosses in people's yards. He said that they came to his house one night and Leon's family hid in the woods in their secret hiding place, so that they wouldn't get hurt or killed. He said that it was all part of survival, and I believe it too. Leon was born in 1936. Black people couldn't get very good jobs back then. When Leon was older he was asked to join a march started by Martin Luther King Jr. Before they marched they would cut old inner tubes and wrap it around their bodies. They made stocking caps out of women's stockings and stuffed them with newspaper. This was all for protection. If a dog jumped on them, the inner tube would protect them, and, if the police beat them, the newspaper would protect their heads. "Leon's Story" was written by Leon Walter Tillage. Leon is still alive 'til this day working as a custodian at the Park School in Baltimore, Maryland. ☺



Chioke w/Shoshonna Levi, Maureen Littlejohn & Ashanti Williams at Vecinos Orientation Jul 2000

photo by A. Flores