

LAS VEGAS

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Special women honored

By Sharon Savage
Sentinel-Voice

The fragrant aroma of roses bent the air during the 13th installment of the Professional Black Women's Alliance's Rose Awards, an annual tribute to outstanding women of color.

The Rose Awards were created more than a decade ago to honor women whose humanitarian work would otherwise go overlooked. Nearly 300 people packed the West Las Vegas Library Theater last weekend to honor 17 women.

The coveted Rose Award went to Gladys Luckie, personal chef and confidant to late piano genius Liberace.

"I am honored and pleased to have been selected," said Luckie, who drew a standing ovation. "I have traveled all over the world and have been acquainted with many people including the Queen of England and (former first Lady) Eleanor Roosevelt. Some of the best people I have met are right here in Las Vegas."

Faye Duncan Daniel, president of the black women's alliance explained the flower's meaning: "The rose is significant because it comes in various shades as do women of color. It is beautiful, has a long stem, grows in all climates and is a survivor. It is symbolic of the black woman's experience."

KVVU-TV Fox 5 personality Lillian McMorris and family deviation mediator LeDeana Gamble (See Rose Awards, Page 5)

Grant funds 35 volunteers

By Deborah Kohen
Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas Boys and Girls Clubs will receive a \$200,000 grant to recruit 35 new AmeriCorps volunteers, Nevada Sens. Harry Reid and Richard Bryan announced last Friday. The money will come from the AmeriCorps State Formula grant program.

AmeriCorps is a national service program in which volunteers exchange a year of service for education funding. Presently, more than 25,000 members serve across the country. Recruitment for volunteers to serve Las Vegas will begin this fall.

The recruits will provide literacy tutoring to approximately 475 at-risk students from kindergarten through eighth grade and will assist in Boys & Girls Club after-school programs aimed at improving academic success and school attendance for 625 local youth.

"Everyone benefits from these ... grants," Reid said. "The Las Vegas Boys and Girls Club benefits by getting a dedicated team of volunteers to support their innovative programs. The AmeriCorps volunteers benefit from working with students at the club and receive much needed assistance for their own education."

Bryan, a fellow Democrat, also praised the grant: "The Las Vegas Boys and Girls Club has done so much to improve and enhance the lives of Southern Nevada's children," he said. "The programs they run contribute to the education of boys and girls ... and give them constructive things to do when they're not in school. The involvement of AmeriCorps will only further enhance the important work done by the Club. This grant is a win for everyone."

Amber Jacobo, program director of the AmeriCorps grant, said the money will be used to recruit, train and pay volunteers, who earn a minimum-wage living allowance of \$4,725 for 900 hours of service and a \$2,363 grant when their term ends. They can use the money to cover the cost of tuition or to repay student loans.

Jacobco oversees placement of AmeriCorps recruits at 16 schools and Boys and Girls Clubs. Assignments are based on the number of children at each site who need assistance.

Recruits pledging the year-long commitment must be at least 17 years old, but Jacobco said college students, either undergraduate or graduate, seem to work out best. She said the training and development of a humanitarian spirit are the program's greatest rewards.

Besides the opportunity to make a difference in society by helping young children and interacting with parents, educators and business leaders, volunteers can use their training in all aspects of their life.

Recruits for the 1998-99 school year must apply by Sept. 1. Those interested in volunteering can contact Amber Jacobco at the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce at 641-5822.



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice by Gary Glass

During the 13th Annual Rose Awards Gladys Luckie enjoys her moment of glory as the recipient of the Rose Award.

Nigeria struggling to right itself after 17 years of Abiola

By Askia Muhammad
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (FCN)— Even as observers in this country emphasize positive signs in the face of rioting and the death of more than 50 anti-government demonstrators in Nigeria, a delicate calm returned to Africa's most populous country July 12 after an international medical team concluded that a heart attack, and not foul play, was responsible for the death of Chief Moshood Abiola, on the apparent eve of his release from political detention.

American, British and Canadian pathologists discovered "significant enlargement of the heart" of Chief Abiola, during a late night autopsy conducted at an unnamed hospital in Lagos, the country's commercial capital, according to published reports. Chief Abiola's heart condition was due to chronic high blood pressure and "severe narrowing of the main coronary arteries by fatty plaques," the doctors said in an anxiously awaited preliminary report.

The report was made public two hours after Chief Abiola

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— Patrick Ayendi, Nigerian Embassy spokesman

was buried during an emotional funeral at his home in that city.

Chief Abiola — the widely presumed, but unofficial winner of annulled presidential elections held in the country June 12, 1993 — died July 7, virtually in the arms of U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas

Pickering during a visit by an American delegation. His death came just one month after the death of former Nigerian military ruler Gen. Sani Abacha, also after a fatal heart attack.

"The situation in Nigeria is calm," Nigerian Embassy spokesman Patrick Ayendi told

FCN. "The government has been holding consultations with all groups in the country, so as to come up with a decision that will put the country on the road to democracy."

"Calm heads have been prevailing," Adonis Hoffman, Senior Fellow at the World Policy Institute and former Chief of Staff of the House Africa Subcommittee, told FCN in the face of reports of fewer deaths than had been predicted by some African policy analysts.

"People (in Nigeria) remember the devastation the

Biafra war took on the country. More than one million people died. I think that is something we lose sight of by being so far away," he said, recalling the bloody three-year civil war that divided the country along ethnic lines in 1967.

Before Chief Abiola's death, Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, Gen. Abacha's successor, had raised hopes for a quick restoration of civilian government in the country with the release of several prominent political detainees and the promise that Chief Abiola's

(See Nigeria, Page 16)