

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 37

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

January 12, 2006

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Locals reflect on life of Lou Rawls

By *Lés Pierres Streater*  
and *Parker Philpot*  
*Sentinel-Voice*

The gentle, silky, crooning voice of legendary singer Lou Rawls was silenced on Friday as he passed away at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles following many months of treatment for lung and brain cancer. Rawls, who was 72 at the time of his death, had been hospitalized for over the past month, according to spokespersons for the family.

Born in 1933, in Chicago, Ill., Rawls was raised by his grandmother, who introduced him to gospel music as he began singing at an early age in the church choir. Over the years, he produced many memorable songs, including "You'll Never find Another Love

Like Mine," "Lady Love," "Natural Man," "Tobacco Road," "See You When I Get There," and many more.

Rawls professional singing career began with him performing with the Chosen Gospel Singers and the Pilgrim Travelers, along with teaming up with his former high school classmate Sam Cooke and the Teenage Kings of Harmony. He recorded 52 albums during his five decades as an entertainer and won many Grammy awards for his music.

Over the past 25 years, Rawls was associated with hosting the annual telethon for United Negro College Fund, which he founded as the Parade of Stars. He spearheaded the events and raised over \$200 million dedicated to helping young Black students afford an education at historically Black colleges



Legendary singer Lou Rawls sold more than 40 million records in a career that stretched more than half a century.

and universities, or HBCUs. His last appearance was in September 2005, which was aired this past weekend.

Many local music artists and others were closely acquainted with Rawls and expressed their insights on the late entertainer's style and contributions.

Ghalib Ghallab, jazz pianist and vocalist, was a friend of the late singer and commented on his lifelong relationship with Rawls.

"I knew Lou Rawls from back in the 1960s when I used to deliver newspapers to the Esquire Lounge on 95th and Wentworth in Chicago. I would climb the fence and watch Lou perform at the nightclub, and I enjoyed his performances along with Dick Gregory, who was on the same show. When Lou Rawls would come out to leave after his performance,

I would give him his newspaper. He was somebody I truly admired, and he had a positive effect on me... I knew early on that I wanted to be an entertainer, too." One of Ghallab's treasured times with Rawls was when he sat in for an impromptu set during a performance at the Rio Hotel and another time at Caesar's Palace where Galab's trio regularly performs. "He sat in with me again for two hours and ended my show that night," Ghallab reminisced, adding that Rawls "will be truly missed. Now, he is with Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Ella Fitzgerald."

A local who performed with Rawls, Isadore Washington, also known as Sir Wash, was also a long-time friend of the legendary entertainer.

(See Lou Rawls, Page 9)

## Event honors career

By *Tasha Pope*  
*Sentinel-Voice*

Peace Fest 2006, which commemorates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will take place Monday at the Clark County Community Resource Center located at 2432 N. Martin Luther King Blvd. at Carey Avenue, from

11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. The Peace Fest is free to the public.

The festival will provide several activities and a variety of entertainment. Some vendors will have merchandise and food for sale during the event.

The Peace Fest celebra-

tion is sponsored by the office of County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates, the city of Las Vegas, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District and KCEP Power 88.1-FM.

"I believe that we have to stir up the gifts so that the

(See King, Page 6)

## Las Vegas youth project takes the King Day 'on'

By *Tasha Pope*  
*Sentinel-Voice*

On Martin Luther King Day, the usual procedure is joining friends and family, enjoying festivities and parades.

The House of Knowledge Christian Academy has decided to lead youth in a different approach to celebrating King Day. They will take the day on, not off, and participate in the Las Vegas Works mentoring project to actually live out the vision of King.

The academy, which holds classes at the Doolittle Center on "J" street, will have their students show up on Martin Luther King Day. Although the children will be learning, they won't be attending regular classes. They will be volunteer participants in an inspirational field trip granted by the Points of Light Foundation to implement the Las Vegas Works project on their campus, according to project founder Rhea Watson.

"We decided to really do something special this year. We feel it's better to take this day 'on' than off," the Las Vegas Works project coordinators said.

Although the students will be active on Martin Luther King Day, the meaning will remain apparent.

The national initiative to take the King Day 'on' with activism is funded under a federal program called the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"Since 1994, they've been awarding grants to [organizations and schools] who chose to take Martin Luther King day on, rather than off, to do community service, all over the nation," said Rhea Watson.

Las Vegas Works is a youth development, mentoring project that allows local students the opportunity to visit professionals and entrepreneurs in their places of business. This allows students to witness what it's like on the job and in businesses, to see how Las Vegas really works.

In keeping with King's dream for equality, the project's emphasis is on opening opportunities for girls and children of color and any others who would not otherwise get this kind of beneficial exposure.

The approximately 70 children who will participate in Monday's activities come from all age groups, K through 12. The fourth through 12th graders are going out, supervised by adult volunteers, to do the documentaries in the various workplaces, according to Rhea Watson.

Students from other schools have been

(See Works, Page 2)



### FRYING ON THE HOT SEAT

Martha-Ann Alito, right, reacts during the intense questioning of her husband Judge Samuel Alito on the third day of his Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday.