

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by Kathi Overstreet

Dr. Nona Carroll is president of the local chapter of Justice, Unity, Generosity and Service International.

## Vegas to host JUGS affairs

By Tasha Pope  
Sentinel-Voice

Justice, Unity, Generosity, Service, International Inc. is holding its 39th annual JUGS International Conference in Las Vegas on June 21 through 25 at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino at 2411 W. Sahara Ave.

JUGS is a not-for-profit organization made up of African-American women working together to tackle problems in their communities and across the nation. Collectively, the organization's main focus has been to improve circumstances for children to ensure their welfare. Since its inception in 1953, JUGS has grown nationally and now has 250 members and 13 chapters across the country.

The Las Vegas Chapter was created in 1999 and currently has 15 members working to create opportunities and provide services for those who require assistance.

"Education is our [main objective] but many things have come up and we take them on," said Dr. Nona Carroll, president of the local chapter of JUGS.

The local chapter usually holds fundraisers for charities each year but with the conference being held here this year, the organization timed its major annual awards luncheon to coincide with hosting its visiting members, according to Carroll.

This year, local organizers scheduled fewer local chapter events to accommodate the conference activities. In the past, the main local fundraiser event held around Easter is the Gospel, Blues and Jazz Concert, which was not scheduled for this year.

The JUGS Community Awards Luncheon will be held Saturday on June 24 from noon to 2:00 p.m. and will serve as the lead fundraiser, according to Carroll, who welcomes the community to attend and support the organization's local works.

Congressional representative Diane E. Watson of Los Angeles was selected to be the keynote speaker. JUGS members selected Watson because they felt her message would be inspiring to audience members.

"She has unselfishly worked for her community. Whatever words she's going to bring will be fantastic," Carroll expressed.

Watson has worked toward improving education since 1975 when she was selected as the first African-American woman to be elected to the Los Angeles Unified

(See JUGS, Page 5)

## Event celebrates fitness

By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

The first annual local celebration recognizing May as National Black Health and Fitness Month was hosted by the House of Knowledge Christian Academy and Parsons Peace Academy. The event called "Fun and Fit Friday" took place last week at the Doolittle Community Center at "J" Street, off W. Lake Mead Boulevard.

Representatives of the Doolittle Senior Citizens Center supported the efforts of the groups to promote health and fitness. Approximately 75, including students, seniors, and community members, attended.

Rhea Watson, event coordinator, said the activity is significant for African-Americans, especially for the youth and seniors.

"Today's event is being sponsored by the House of Knowledge Christian Academy... we're just here encouraging both young and old to live long and healthy, to exercise and eat right. We are a small school, and I noticed an epidemic here where our stu-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Child's play: (From left) Israel Davis, Naneegi Cumbey, Destiny Harris and Zaria Hester run around the Doolittle Community Center track during the recent "Fun and Fit Friday."

dents appeared to be a bit overweight. We then decided to start a walking club where our students walk around this track [at Doolittle] three times a day. This has resulted in many of our students changing their lifestyles and

becoming [healthier and more fit]."

According to the American Obesity Association, there is cause for alarm: "Along with the rise in childhood obesity, there has been an increase in the incidence

and prevalence of medical conditions in children and adolescents that had been rare in the past. Pediatricians and childhood obesity researchers are reporting more frequent cases of obesity-re-

(See Fitness, Page 16)

## Famed dancer Dunham dies at 96

By Associated Press

Katherine Dunham, a pioneering dancer and choreographer, author and civil rights activist who left Broadway to teach culture in one of America's poorest cities, has died. She was 96.

Dunham died Sunday at the Manhattan assisted living facility where she lived, said Charlotte Ottley, executive liaison for the organization that preserves her artistic estate. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Dunham was perhaps best known for bringing African and Caribbean influences to the European-dominated dance world. In the late 1930s, she established the nation's first self-supporting all-Black modern dance group.

"We weren't pushing 'Black is Beautiful,' we just showed it," she later wrote.



Katherine Dunham was a matriarch of American dance.

During her career, Dunham choreographed "Aida" for the Metropolitan Opera and musicals such as "Cabin in the Sky" for Broadway. She also appeared in several films, including "Stormy Weather" and "Carnival of Rhythm."

Her dance company toured internationally from

the 1940s to the '60s, visiting 57 nations on six continents. Her success was won in the face of widespread discrimination, a struggle Dunham championed by refusing to perform at segregated theaters.

For her endeavors, Dunham received 10 honorary doctorates, the Presidential

Medal of the Arts, the Albert Schweitzer Prize at the Kennedy Center Honors, and membership in the French Legion of Honor, as well as major honors from Brazil and Haiti.

"She is one of the very small handful of the most important people in the dance world of the 20th century," said Bonnie Brooks, chairman of the dance department at Columbia College in Chicago. "And that's not even mentioning her work in civil rights, anthropological research and for humanity in general."

After 1967, Dunham lived most of each year in predominantly Black East St. Louis, Ill., where she struggled to bring the arts to a Mississippi River city of burned-out buildings and high crime.

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