

That We May Resurrect

by

Gloria Jean Sewell-Murphy
gloriajcreates@gmail.com
Founding Coordinator/Executive Director
Oakland (Municipal) Arts Council

From beneath the cold chill of winter....
The Soul mind stirs and wakens... a pulse at last
Is heard, weak but steady.

Over mighty cliffs, ancient rock beds
A mystic waterfall flows free....'Cross pathways
Of the ages, returning to ponder the babbling brook downstream.
Where the wisdom of time speaks in primal voice...an echoed
Cadence now remembered, remembered, remembered
In a language
Heard the world over...a timeless chorus in Universal harmonies....
The Cry...
For Freedom and Justice rang out, overshadowed and stifled
But not dead.

We've reached beyond 50 years
To redeem our past and to honor our visionaries.
Amiri Baraka (Leroi Jones), first to declaim the inequalities and
To propel us into uncharted dimensions and orbits....
Modern 20th Century, dynamic vernacular, word tapestries,
The beat...A burgeoning anti-system, griot-warrior....

"We Shall Overcome" our peace-maker architects, Martin, Rustin;
"By Any Means Necessary," our Manhood, Malcolm X; Hamer, Height;
Stokely, Kwame Ture, and Willie Ricks gave form and strength
To set Free
The fist of our Power, that struck gut deep
To paralyze an unjust Nation and to spark the rise
Of OUR new vision, one that would reshape unequal contours
In America's Psyche landscape.

Larry Neal, like Alan Locke, saw into the heart and soul
Of our rush toward Cultural Sovereignty: “The Black Arts Movement,”
Panther’s March on California’s Capitol, “Power to the People,” The Last Poets.
Maulana Karenga’s, Nguzi Saba: Kwanzaa; Nathan Hare, “Toward an
Educational Reform”: First Black Studies Chair;. And, Gil Scott, Godfather Rap:
“The Revolution, Winter in America,” sampled in hip hop...scratch, the beat...
Run, TuPac, Common, Lamar, “Straight Outta Compton:” Ice T; Simone....

Pan African resurgence hallmark: Black Theatre, Poetry, Dance
Hansberry, NEC-Ward-Hooks, Ailey, Bullins, Marvin X. Pontiflet, LHT-SF
Milner, Maya, OET-Thompson, Mitchell, Baldwin, NFT-Woodie K, Haley,
Reed, B&B-Booker, Fields, Black Rep-Vaughn, Ellison, Walker, Sanchez,
Cicely, EGYPT-Gibson, Belafonte, Morrison, Winfrey, Brooks, Nikki, Ktozake.
R. White, EMA-Vernita, Kelly Marie, Beckford, Cayou, Dimensions, Osumare.
Karamu House: 100 years hence, we celebration and honor you....

Visual magery transformed: Driskell, Chandler, Carraway, Catlett, E. J.
Hammons, Woody J., BAC-Monroe, Ringgold, Samella, C.White, Delsarte,
Lawrence, Bearden, Donaldson, Clark, Saar and Biggers, Ashton,III,
Pam Grier, Daniels, DuVernay, Coogler...set in motion our Epic stories....
Van Der Zee and Aaron Douglas we pay tribute as we look back to you....
Self-Determined Identity: Black Is Beautiful...J.B. said it Loud
“Black and Proud” Our Dignity....

Our time still looks to the brightest light in metaphoric ideals
That reach back into 19th Century’s rational mind in its search
To understand and build a Just and Ordered Nation.
And, to uplift the eyes of disenfranchised everywhere,
To refocus the World’s lens of Justice for All.

We’ve dreamed a dream that embrace the soul of all humankind.
No longer a dream deferred...but a presence crafted
By a myriad of forceful voices and energies that restructured
The pathways of our Expression...Pathways travelled by and revealed
To many...Ethnic Studies, Literature, Songs and Sermons....
They’re indebted to our Renaissance...We are the WORLD...Quincy, M.J...

Those not of melanin, you, who have helped us
In our infinite struggle ...we give thanks and honor
Your courage and some of us have, yes, witnessed your final
Breath, the final breath you took to aid us in our vision and our
Steps toward our Mission: To ensure the ENDURING life of
Freedom and Justice....And still WE rise: "Black Panther," Superhero....

Our sons, our daughters and generations to come....
We pass the torch. We, Africans of American descent and legacy.
The Hope for our people...rests on the shoulders of those who have led the
Charge of our epoch struggle; our monuments on Capitol Hill
And in yonder land give actualization to our plight and
Our deaths becoming the driving force that will infuse our lives
As we press on....

The pendulum swings again in our time....
The clock is striking the high noon of Change.
Dissipated misbeliefs and injustice are doomed,
But, for some a reluctant Eulogy. "Black Lives Matter!"
This universal chord reverberates, giving ultimatums
To an apathetic, biased and besieged Nation.

We continue our March, arms upward
With the sorrow of the Souls of Our youth outstretched,
As sacrificial lambs, the injustices resonate:
"Black Lives Matter" is the cry today written in their blood
Across the face of Our Nation ...as tears drip down in grimacing despair.

Our youth give their lives...
That WE may resurrect, once again,
To live out the true meaning and destiny of Our
Adopted Nation... that All are created equal with inalienable rights...
Justice and Liberty for ALL.

"Black Lives Matter," written in Our blood and will forever be
The signature that will touch the heart of the Just and
Empathetic Peoples everywhere....
Let Freedom and Justice ring as we pay tribute,
As we honor all who have fallen as redemption
To save the SOUL of Our Nation

We, heirs of the first World People, and our 44th President, Obama....
Our arts, artists, writers, orators, architects. repositories...vision keepers...
Venerate our lives, our struggle, deaths and our Epoch Triumphs
For all time, for all ages and will bear witness, Bennett, Hogan, Ming...
That our dream and our presence is no longer deferred...
But will forever be made manifest...#WeToo Sing America...
On the Wings of our Ancestral Spirit Guides and Guardians....
Our renewed Aesthetic Expressions, OUR Legends and
OUR Legacy Lives On....
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Gloria Jean Sewell-Murphy was a presenter at the 2014 Conference, U.C Merced: The Black Arts Movement and its Influences, 50 Years On. Her paper, "To Administer the Arts as Central to Life: Cultural Democracy, Renewal and the Black Arts Movement," was well received. Gloria is a veteran Cultural Arts practitioner, advocate and activist. She is a former educator at one of U.C. Berkeley's Demonstration Schools; one of the murals for enrichment toured California. She completed graduate studies in the master's program at John F. Kennedy University in the area of Museum Art Research with emphasis on the Art of the African-American. Gloria continued her educational and administrative efforts in the public sector as the Founding Coordinator/Executive Director of the Mayoral Appointed Municipal Arts Council and introduced the City of Oakland's first Cultural Planning and Development Comprehensive Plan. Reportedly, there was no Cultural Planning and "Development" in the Nation at that time. Because the Municipal Arts Council is the predecessor of the current Cultural Arts Commission/Department, an evolution, the founding pioneers, had hoped for; Gloria has been called the Mother of Oakland's Cultural Development. Invited to the White House by President Carter, she is also associated with the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Active in the formation of the California Arts Council, Gloria has served as Resource for the Department of Labor, the artist as worker and for the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is a published and award-winning poet and visual artist; her works are in private and corporate collections; exhibited nationally and internationally. Active in the Cultural/Black Arts Movement of the seventies and on, Gloria was a member of Anukae writers/productions (Charles and Ann Fields, Calvin Green), which created, wrote and co-produced the pilot for the Nation's first African-American Continuing Daytime Drama, BETWEEN HORIZONS which aired on Focus Cable television. She was also co-producer and co-host of the Rainbow Signs' Public Affairs Radio Program on KRE, Berkeley. Her written portrait of Black Theatre in the Bay Area appeared in the final issue of the Johnson publication, *Black World*. She has been invited to appear as guest on radio and television...Also a community and spiritual servant, Gloria is currently completing a screenplay with her writing colleague and SAG member, Ann E. Fields. Her life outlook embodies her favorite quote from her first published poem, The Eyes of Life, "I look into the eyes of life to see hope pictured there and to understand who I am and why I'm here."