

## **Juneteenth 2009**

To the mighty  
3/5ths unequal  
The mighty  
Juneteenth People  
This is  
Our special day  
To say  
In our special way  
We are here and  
Obama, Obama, Obama leads the way  
With Michelle  
In the white house today  
Through trials  
And great tribulation  
We fought on for  
Our Black liberation  
To the mighty  
3/5ths unequal  
Listen and learn well  
Hear me my people  
Love or at least respect  
Everyone  
No matter where  
they come from  
Embrace Black Self Love  
My beautiful people  
So we can be alive and  
have a sequel  
for our ancestors from Africa  
To our ancestors all over America  
No Chains on our  
Hands and feet  
They even say  
We are free  
To the mighty  
Juneteenth People

We will be equal  
And Obama, Obama, Obama is our sequel  
This is our story  
Our days of Black Glory  
You and Me--WE  
Are Black History

## Calling

Calling on  
African Kings  
Calling on  
African Queens

For a people's  
Congress  
So we  
Will progress

Calling on Africans  
Calling Caribbean's  
Brazil/Guiana  
And African-Americans

Not calling  
Exploiters  
Not calling  
Oppressors

Calling on Mr. Aristide  
The late Fela Kuti/and mighty Mandela  
Calling Oba Eradiwa

Calling Africa for a  
People's congress  
For our peace  
For our progress

Calling on  
New Guineans  
And all  
Melanesians

Show your love  
For Lumumba  
Show your love  
For Nkrumah

Nzinga of Angola  
Nyerere  
And Haiti's  
Aristide

For the love  
Of Malcolm X  
For the love  
Of ourselves

Calling Freedom  
Loving Africans  
For more unity in  
Our community

Calling for unity  
Calling for progress  
Calling for an 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>  
African People's Congress

Show your love  
For Marcus Garvey  
Farrakhan and  
The late Stokley Sekou Ture

Calling on my people  
For the real  
An 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> People's Congress  
You know the real deal

## **Africa Bound**

The world is round  
But I am Africa Bound  
I can hear the sound  
And Blacks are found  
Once again to  
My Motherland  
And always home  
Of the Black Man  
May my story be told  
My homeland of gold  
My people of old  
Where it's hot  
And rarely cold  
Going in a family way  
I will arrive  
Later today  
To meet sweet lady

Bound for African Glory  
Flying past the island of Gory  
May my roots be found  
I am African Bound  
Hoping to see  
A few old friends  
Looking to see  
Some brand new trends  
On a jet full  
Of beautiful Black faces  
Taking off to Africa  
Full of cultural basis  
Going home to unite  
With my Sweetie  
Home, Nigeria I found  
I am Africa Bound

## Oh Africa

Oh Africa  
Which one you day  
Oh Africa  
This is our day  
When will we  
Unite for African People  
United States of Africa  
Every African treated equal  
The power is in Black Hands  
On all African Lands  
One united Africa  
On our lands and Islands

No more work to rule  
Every African child in school  
Every family, 2 houses  
Every house has 2 browsers  
So we must unite  
When we feel it's right  
For the destiny of the Black Man  
Unite the African  
May time finally come  
Africa, unite and be number 1  
Our ancestors will celebrate  
When our work is done  
Africa oh Africa  
Which one you day  
Oh Africa unite  
When the time is right

## Long Distance Love Calling and Calling

I don't get through  
Then I really  
Think about you  
Calling and calling  
I finally get through  
Feel me love  
Reaching out to you  
No doubt about it  
You are far away  
Long distance love  
Yesterday and today  
Long distance Love  
The most challenging kind  
A true real love  
is not easy to find  
Long distance love  
Yesterday and today  
Please have no sorrow  
We'll make love tomorrow  
Long distance love  
Long distance love  
Come here  
Hear what I say  
Long distance love  
Long distant love  
My beautiful  
Lovely Ese  
Long distance love  
Long distance love  
My beautiful  
Lovely Lady  
Long distance love  
Long distance love  
My sweet  
Sweet baby  
Long distance love  
Long distance love  
My sweet  
Sweet lady

Long distance love  
Yesterday and today  
Please have no sorrow  
We'll make love tomorrow



## Obamaland

Obama land  
In America  
Your dad hails  
From Kenya Africa

Obama  
A more perfect union  
Obama stand for  
All women and men

Obama  
Save us from the Tazer  
Obama  
While handcuffed  
9 times is too much

Obama  
Give us our rights  
As you run for the Blacks  
And you run for the whites

Obama  
Your day  
has come  
Obama#1

# The United States of Africa

The Unification  
Of a strong Black nation  
made up of all continental African states  
Is empowerment for liberation

Marcus Garvey and  
Kwame Nkrumah  
Put it on the table  
Africa needs growth that is stable

The beginning of the end  
of White Supremacy  
And the release of  
New positive African energy

Empowered by our own unity  
Ending feelings of Black inferiority  
Africa sings a unity song  
Unite and make Africa strong

Somalia are you ready  
North and South Sudan  
Ethiopia and Zimbabwe  
Africa Unite today

So get it together  
In our mind  
You will find  
Empowerment for our kind

Unity that is homegrown  
Greater than the world has known  
Africa uniting on its own  
To make Africa strong

Unite African states  
Empower the African people not the snakes  
Follow authentic Africans  
Ignore the African fakes

Though the time  
has come  
We have to  
convince some

Nigeria are you ready  
South Africa are you steady  
Calling on Ghana, Kenya and the Congo  
Unite so Africa will be free

Mali, Ivory Coast  
And Senegal  
Can you hear the call

Equatorial Guinea, Bissau  
and Guinea Conakry  
Can you  
feel me

What about Libya  
and Namibia  
Egypt  
and Tunisia

Angola and Madagascar  
Tanzania, Zambia and Gambia  
Will you come together?  
To empower Africa forever?

Together we will  
end the poverty  
Empowerment must emerge  
The product from the African entity

More trade with  
Each other  
One currency in unity  
United my sister and my brother

More cultural exchanges  
As we unite in many stages  
More Black People More Black Land  
Empowerment and respect the African

All Continental African nations  
All African locations  
From the islands to the mainland  
African women and the African man

Unite our motherland  
Empower our African destiny  
Unite continental African nations  
As an African Federal State entity

African brothers and sisters  
Hear this call  
United we stand  
Divided we fall

# **Ukali Interviews Charles Chatmon of LABBX**

An interview of Charles Chatmon about the August 21, 2010 Los Angeles Black Book Expo conducted by JPAS guest editor Larry Ukali Johnson-Redd. Charles Chatmon is the executive director of the Los Angeles Black Book Expo (P.O. Box 533133, Los Angeles, California 90053; 323-718-5678).

**Hello Charles Chatmon. Please describe this year's Los Angeles Black Book Expo that occurred in August 2010, and the origin of LABBX?**

This year's L.A. Black Book Expo was held inside the Sheraton Gateway LAX Hotel, which we had a wide range of authors from New York to Los Angeles. We had panel discussions, workshops, a spoken word feature and a children's area just as we've always had it for the expo. We also added an Authors Competition and other contests as well.

In the beginning, we've held the LABBX inside the Expo Center (as it's called now) at Exposition Park. I've been the executive director for four years, but for the first two of our six year history, Dr. Itibari Zulu who is also the founder of the expo, was its original executive director. Our focus is serving the community by providing a quality book event for authors and exhibitors and for the general public.

**How far was it from the neighborhood or as some say the hood?**

The Sheraton is located near the airport. Mind you, it took us out of the community, but we were focused on providing more events that took place within such as a writer's workshop and spelling bee. Because we had 'outgrown' the Expo Center, it was my decision to find a suitable place for LABBX. The hotel had reached out to us, so I had to see what they have to offer. I can say they provided the best atmosphere for us and a lot of the authors enjoyed the experience.

**What were the outstanding features of LABBX 2010, and who were some of the old and new authors?**

Michael Colyar, the former host of BET's Live in L.A. joined us this year, and he enjoyed the event, which we're glad he did.

The Authors Competition generated a lot of interest as well as our move to the Sheraton itself. I think that was the reason why we attracted over sixty exhibitors this year. We had veteran writers such as Lutishia Lovely, Kwan, Vicki Ward, Maxine Thompson, new authors such as Jacqueline Luckett, Donnette Black, Pacific Raven Press from Hawaii, even actress Cherie Johnson of Punky Brewster, Family Matters) has a book and LABBX was her first event! If anyone is interested, we have a complete exhibitors list of who attended (with video) on our blog at <http://labbx.blogspot.com>.

We also had the Sunset and Gumbo show on Urban Soul Radio 102.5 FM come out and interview authors, which was fun.

### **How far did authors come from, and how many?**

From New York to Hawaii, and every year it seems as if we attract authors from the East coast which is a blessing to us. By far, this was the largest L.A. Black Book Expo on record with over sixty authors! Our team did a great job in getting the word out there.

### **Who sold the most books or generated the most vivid response from the audience?**

I've heard from numerous authors that their books sold, so it's hard to tell if children's books sold any better than non-fiction or fiction, but as long as sales were made, it doesn't matter to me.

### **What will be different next year in 2011?**

Good question. The LABBX Executive Circle hasn't held our meeting yet, so I don't want to take away any great plans one of the committee members might have but I will say we'll continue to make our event better. We'll look at everything from the site to promotions and bigger name authors. Everything will be put in consideration and sometime in 2011, we'll have a brand new website along with an improvement on what we needed to work on and continuing what we're doing right so far. I promise you that.

### **Will you invite the President Barack Obama, Drake or Danny Glover or Kobe Bryant in 2011 or all of the above?**

Chances are they'll have a lot on their hands next year, but you never know! :)

**What are your latest moves and projects as a poet?**

I have finished my third book which will have my poetry and short stories this time and the working title I'm thinking I'll choose is *Storm Over South Central*, based on one of my short stories in the book. I'm also working on a book with two novellas which is different from the genres published now, and I hope I will provide some fun for the public out there. I don't want to say much now, but I'll have more word on that and my first novel that I'm also working on at this time.

**Thank you very much Charles Chatmon for this interview!**

Thank you.

**Larry Ukali Johnson-Redd** (ljredd52@aol.com) has a B.A. in Political Science and Ethnic Studies (University of San Francisco), a M.P.A. (Golden Gate University), an administrative credential, and a M.A. in Educational Administration (San Francisco State University). He is also the author of *The Black Expatriate in Africa* (1982), *Journey to the Motherland: From San Francisco to Benin City* (2002), *History to Destiny Through Afrocentric Poetry* (2003), *Loving Black Women* (2006), and *Long Distance Love* (2010), an autobiographical love story about a struggling writer-school administrator who travels to Nigeria after a 24 year absence.

In the context of *Long Distance Love* this poet, writer and school administrator sits in his principal or site leader's office and dreams about returning to Nigeria and writing a new novel. A good Nigerian friend then decides to introduce him to his niece in Lagos, Nigeria. The relationship blossoms online, through the telephones and through letters. Ukali travels to Nigeria for the first time in 24 years to meet his lovely fiancé to be. While he waits and goes through the finance visa process, he writes some of the most beautiful poetry ever written while professing his love to Ese. Ese is younger than Ukali. Eventually a visa is given after 4 years and his young fiancé arrives, only to get cold feet and returns to Nigeria.

While in Nigeria Ukali flies to his beloved Benin City and upcountry to a village called Ubiaja in Edo State in Nigeria, 80 miles up country where he runs into twin politician friends whom he had not seen for 24 years. What a friend's reunion! How do you think this story ends? One will need to read to the conclusion to see how this autobiographical love story of an African-American and a Nigerian unfolds. The book and other resources by the author can be accessed at:

[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=ntt\\_athr\\_dp\\_sr\\_1?encoding=UTF8&search-alias=digital-text&field-author=Larry%20Ukali%20Johnson-Redd](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=ntt_athr_dp_sr_1?encoding=UTF8&search-alias=digital-text&field-author=Larry%20Ukali%20Johnson-Redd)

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ukalitheafrikan>

[http://www.blackplanet.com/your\\_page/videos/index.html?profile\\_id=39945499&profile\\_name=Ukal2003&user\\_id=39945499&username=Ukal2003](http://www.blackplanet.com/your_page/videos/index.html?profile_id=39945499&profile_name=Ukal2003&user_id=39945499&username=Ukal2003)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPz7xAnLF9M>

<http://www.nathanielturner.com/larryuklaijohnsonreddtable.htm>