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Where We Come From

23 1986 was historic for San Francisco's Black community. Not only was it the first federal observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, but '86 saw the formation of Black Coalition on AIDS (BCA). In the years since its inception, BCA became a space for the City's affected Black community to mobilize against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. BCA continues its mission "...to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and eliminate health disparities in the Black community."—2008 Strategic Plan.

Response to HIV/AIDS has changed throughout the years since BCA's founding. In the 1980s, as the national HIV/AIDS agenda focused on education, BCA launched a culturally competent Black-targeted public education campaign, "Black People Get AIDS Too." In response to The Ryan White Act service deliverables defined by the 1990s, BCA followed suit with its own services for the City's affected Black population. Housing became one of the organiza-

tion's focal points, as the marginally housed population encountered greater risk for both HIV transmission and going untreated. BCA's Rafiki Housing Program (at the Brandy Moore House) was tailor-made for the City's marginally housed and homeless Black HIV/AIDS populations.

The medical advances prolonging the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS prompted BCA to expand its services to better connect its clients to medical providers. BCA currently provides four classifications of services: HIV Prevention and Education, Case Management, Housing and Health Awareness. To get a full list of the organization's programs and services, visit www.bcoa.org.

BCA doesn't solely focus on the medical aspect of HIV/AIDS and other health disparities. The organization infuses a variety of social activities into its mission. For example, *Saturday* provides HIV positive Black men a venue for community-building through health chats, holistic healing services and continental breakfast. BCA also sponsors movie nights, salons, game nights and even incorporates yoga and dance sessions.

BCA is headquartered and provides most services at 2800 Third Street. The organization's location in the City's Southeast corridor ensures that its services are accessible to individuals in neighborhoods that have been identified as the City's most underserved communities—Bay View-Hunters Point, Visitacion Valley and Potrero Hill.

Love Is

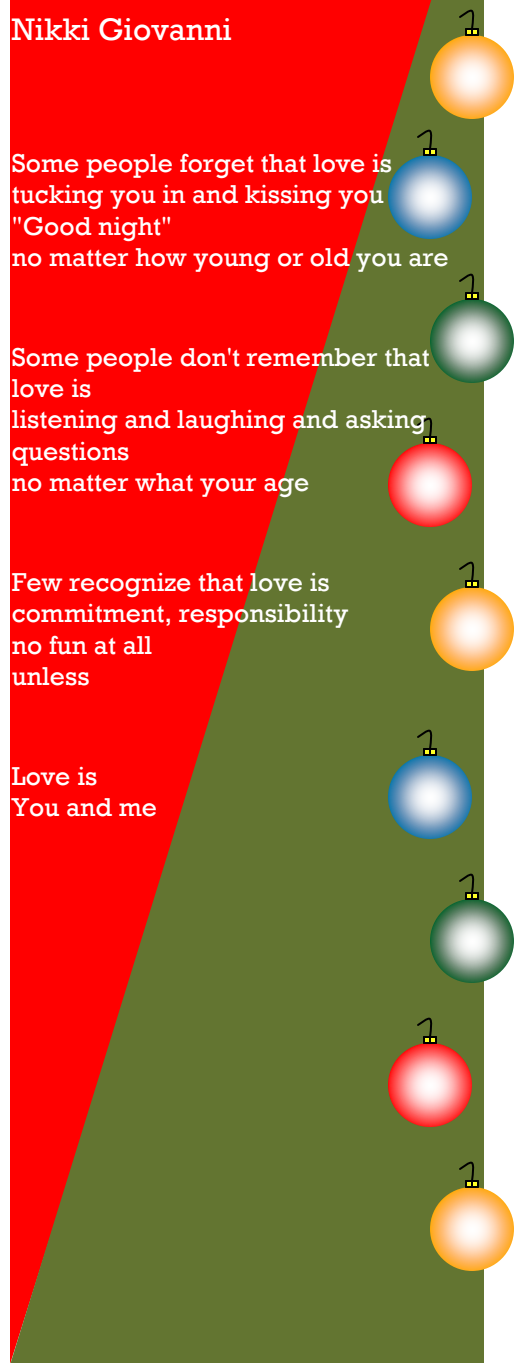
Nikki Giovanni

Some people forget that love is tucking you in and kissing you "Good night" no matter how young or old you are

Some people don't remember that love is listening and laughing and asking questions no matter what your age

Few recognize that love is commitment, responsibility no fun at all unless

Love is You and me



BCA Salutes Dr. Robert C. Scott, 1944-2009



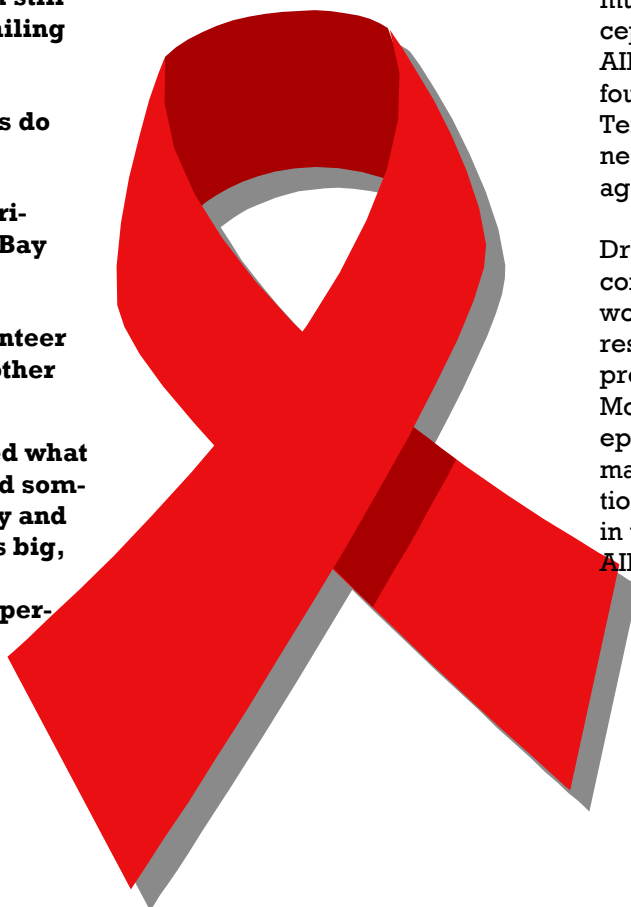
World Activist Humanitarian Leading Physician Philanthropist

2008 Recipient of BCA's Naomi Gray Leadership Award

"...beyond our grief, we can still imagine the good doctor smiling down from somewhere, convinced that his work is testimony that some wounds do heal."

"He inspired scores of Americans, particularly from the Bay Area of California, to make life-changing trips to Zimbabwe, as they went to volunteer at the clinics and at the [Mother of Peace] Orphanage."

"...his presence transformed what would normally be a sad and sombre experience into a cheery and fun-filled one. Here was this big, imposing figure, with an amazingly soft and comely personality."



The words expressed on this page cannot begin to convey the true depth of character Dr. Scott worked all his life developing; but, at the very least, the following will provide a window into the extraordinary life that served and advocated on behalf of those infected with and affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic nationally and globally.

Dr. Scott provided health services to affected Bay Area residents at the start of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s. He also co-founded AIDS Project East Bay. While he also served individuals without HIV/AIDS in his Oakland-based office, his expertise related to the epidemic and advocacy on behalf of those impacted led him into becoming a well-respected among providers within the U.S. and abroad.

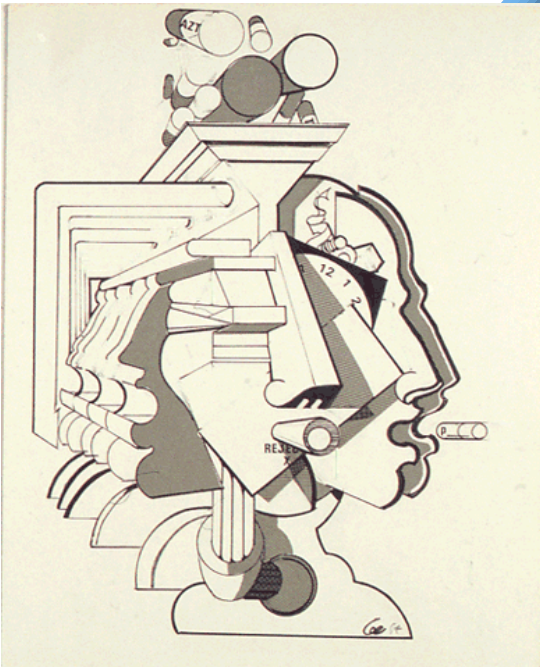
In 2004, Dr. Scott became the first Black American doctor licensed to practice medicine in Zimbabwe. Up until the time of his death, Dr. Scott provided health services to thousands in the Mutoko and Harare communities in Zimbabwe. He never accepted payment for his services. The AIDS Ministry, which Dr. Scott co-founded through his church, Allen Temple Baptist, raised the funds needed for Dr. Scott's crusade against HIV/AIDS abroad.

Dr. Scott leaves behind a legacy of compassion and determination. His work has inspired many Bay Area residents to travel to Zimbabwe to provide services at his clinic abroad. Moreover, his devotion to fighting the epidemic in the Bay Area provided many community health organizations a great advocate and resource in the collective struggle against HIV/AIDS. He will be missed.

Poz Expressions: Artworks from Positives

There is something to be said for the adage: "a picture is worth a thousand words." As part of Visual AIDS, many artists living with HIV/AIDS express their hopes, fears and dreams through the stroke of the brush or the mold of the clay. Visual AIDS, founded in 1988, mobilizes HIV/AIDS activism by promoting awareness and visibility of the epidemic to promote dialog through the medium of art.

Several African-American artists have contributed to the creative representation of HIV/AIDS and, most importantly, have continued to provide material for discussion and to keep public attention on the epidemic. Included in Visual AIDS are a few works from positive African American men and women. As you look at each piece, think about how each included piece adds to the dialog on the epidemic. To see full artist biographies please visit The Body's website at <http://www.thebody.com/content/art46202.html>.



"Pill Factory," 1999; film and ink, 10x8" by **Michael Lee** (aged 43 at time of submission; diagnosed in 1989).



"Physics B," 2007; mixed media by **Remerro Trotsky Williams** (aged 53 at time of submission; diagnosed in 1990).



"Praise thru Grief," 2000; terra cotta, cloth & paint, 11" x 6" x 2" by **Joyce McDonald** (aged 57 at time of submission; diagnosed in 1995).

HIV/AIDS at the Border

HIV/AIDS has been a prominent health concern in the United States for almost three decades. The epidemic's power is rooted deep within the social construction of society, whether American or global. Many people living with HIV/AIDS have endured society's fear, misunderstanding and hatred of a virus whose nature, unlike the common cold, surpasses the bounds of physical health.

For more than two decades, the United States has barred individuals entrance into the country based on the simple phrase: HIV Positive. The ban was enacted in 1987 at a time of ignorance and fear of the seemingly virulent epidemic. The following excerpt from SFGate.com sums up the

ignorance defined by social construction based on fear and misunderstanding:

The ban was based on "old thinking about how you stop the progression of a disease without understanding the science," said conference attendee Ravinia Hayes-Cozier, director of government relations and public policy for National Minority AIDS Council. "The science and policy has finally caught up with each other."

In 2009, President Obama completed steps taken by the Bush Administration to address health-based discrimination by reversing the ban on U.S. entry against individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

The President continued showing commitment to citizens living with HIV/AIDS by signing The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009, which will ensure that the uninsured and underinsured have access to treatment.

According to The Kaiser Family Foundation, The Ryan White CARE Act is the single largest federal grant program designated specifically for HIV/AIDS.—North County Gazette

Both the extension of Ryan White and the repeal of the ban on U.S. entry against individuals living with HIV/AIDS marks a milestone in American history; these actions are picking away at the stigmatization of HIV/

Memos

Good Hand Hygiene

- Wet your hands with running water and apply soap. Use warm water if it is available.
- Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub all surfaces.
- Continue rubbing hands for **20 seconds**. Need a timer? Imagine singing "Happy Birthday" twice-through to a friend!
- Rinse hands well under running water
- ◆ Dry your hands using a paper towel or air dryer. If possible, use your paper towel to turn off the faucet

December

1 - World AIDS Day - Observance at BCA
3, 10, 17 & 23 - Afro Cuban Salsa and Hip Hop Aerobics - 6:30pm-7:30pm. These events take place at BCA headquarters at 2800 Third Street, San Francisco.

February

5 - March to the Castro (see www.bcoa.org for details).
7 - National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Discussions: Interview with BCA Client James by Phillip and David

Recently, we asked one of our clients to participate in a Q and A session on how HIV has impacted his life. James' responses were powerful because they went beyond the intention of the questions, instead revealing the intricate and interconnected nature of health and acceptance. James' story is one of betrayal, self-acceptance and the search for love. The phoenix symbolizes James. Like the mythical bird, James rose from the ashes, and has been thriving; he does not let HIV stop him from living life. We are honored to have James' permission to share the interview with his case manager, Phillip Watson. James' name is shortened to J and Phillip's is shortened to P.

P: This is your story. Feel free to answer what you want, and don't answer what you don't want to—don't feel obligated at all. Let's start from the very beginning. Can you describe how you found out that you were HIV positive?

J: Yes. I caught shingles, and that's when they ran blood tests on me—that was back in 1989.

P: Where were you?

J: I was in Louisiana.

P: What part?

J: Freeport.

P: What were their services like at the time?

J: They didn't have services.

P: So you just happened to go to the doctor because of shingles? An emergency room?

J: I went to the doctor because I had shingles. When he ran the blood test on me—to be honest with you, I was diagnosed AIDS then.

P: Describe how you were living at the time. Were you with somebody; were you alone?

J: I was living at home.

P: So, then, you are originally from Philly?

J: Yes. When I got out of the Army I went to visit Mom. I got out of the Army in '87. And then I stayed with Mom a little while, and then I went back to Mom's house in '89, and that's when I caught shingles. At that time they called it the adult version of the chickenpox.

P: What was the first thing that came to your mind when you found out?

J: Found out I had HIV? I went into denial. I did not seek medical attention for possibly 9 years.

P: Really? So you didn't take any HIV meds? You were treated for shingles and that was it?

J: That was it.

P: When did you decide—?

J: To see a physician? When I came to California. I came to California in '94. And when I came to California I joined a church—I joined First Missionary Baptist Church, which was in Marin City, but I was living in Oakland. There we had prayer partners. A minister was my prayer partner. What happened was I caught shingles again. That's when my prayer partner told me I needed to go check that out. I went to Marin Treatment Center, which is in Marin County. And they ran another HIV test on me. And that's 1998. I told the doctor at that time "you're a liar. I don't have HIV." But then they set me up with a doctor.

P: So, after you got set up with a doctor they put you on meds?

J: Yeah, they put me on meds.

P: Then?

J: Then what happened after that—I went home to tell my mother. Now that was the worst thing I could have done.

P: Why is that?

J: Because my mother is from the old-school, and she does not believe in gay people—she is totally against the gay life. And she told me that the reason I have HIV is because when I was 8 years old I was raped by my eldest brother. Now, first of all, if I was raped, it was her duty as my guardian to notify the authorities—she never did. I never knew that I was raped. All those years. I'm 33 years old now, and all of a sudden I find out I was raped when I was 8 years old. So, I called my eldest sister because my elder sister and me are like that *gives hand signal for closeness*. I called her and I said, "Sheila is that true?" And she said, "yes, it's true, but sometimes when something happens to children they blot it out of their minds until someone brings it back up." And my mother waited all those years to bring it back up.

P: So, how old was your brother at the time?

J: He was 21.

P: So, did you ever find support around that event?

J: No.

P: When did you find support for HIV?

J: When I moved to Marin.

P: So, you started participating in support groups then?

J: No, I became a Positive Speaker.

P: Was it for a particular agency?

J: For Marin AIDS Project. A little after [1998]. I went to the high schools...

To see James' full interview, go to our website at www.bcoa.org

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LIVING NOW

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Are you ...

Diagnosed with HIV/AIDS?

- Concerned about your health/well-being?
- Looking for answers and support?

...then **LIVING NOW** is for YOU!

\$100 Stipend provided for graduating

Workshops held on Wednesdays for
10 weeks, 1 pm – 3 pm.

LUNCH will be provided.

To enroll or for more information
Please contact **TEDDY TEKETEL** at
415.615.9945 EXT. 116

Classes are held at BCA
2800 Third Street @ 24th Street in SF, CA 94107
Accessible by the MUNI T-line to 23rd Street, #48 or #22 bus



SOUTHEAST PARTNERSHIP *for* **HEALTH**
Center of Excellence



Black Coalition On AIDS

Living Now is an adapted community research model comprised of 10 workshop sessions. It is designed to help HIV-positive men and women manage their medications and develop coping skills for living productive lives. For more information, call Tewedros (Teddy) Teketel at (415) 615-9945, ext. 116.

Make a Financial Contribution to BCA

Invest in the Health and Wellness of your community by making a contribution to BCA. You may make a one-time contribution, set up an installment plan, or contribute whenever you'd like.

Online contributions (www.bcoa.org/donate.html) are welcome, or you may send your contribution by mail. You get a free HIV Awareness lapel pin for contributions over \$100 to BCA.

Give to BCA from Where You Work

Join a growing number of BCA supporters who give through a workplace giving program, such as the Bay Area Black United Fund (BCA is agency No. 144), United Way of the Bay Area, or the Combined Federal Campaign (BCA is agency No. 7019). Some corporations, such as Bank of America, provide matching gifts for donations to charity made by their employees. If you need information or assistance making a contribution to BCA through your workplace giving program, please contact the BCA Development and Communications Department at ext 107.

Donate Your Used Car

BCA accepts the proceeds from the sale of vehicles to support the mission, programs and services of BCA. The Car Program, LLC, an authorized vehicle donation program, is available to help you contribute in this way. To make a car donation, please complete the BCA Vehicle Donation Form at <http://www.bcoa.org/donate.html>. Then fax or mail it to BCA.

By fax: 415-615-9943

By mail: Black Coalition on AIDS

2800 Third Street

San Francisco, CA 94107-3502.

Donate and/or Volunteer

BCA has been serving the San Francisco African American community for over 23 years to meet the urgent needs of the Black HIV/AIDS population that was under-served by existing agencies and services.

Over time we have created targeted programs and services to address the most acute needs of the San Francisco African American population. We strive to reverse the history of significant health inequalities that affect the Black community among the population as a whole.

We made contact with over

3,000 individuals in 2008 and provided case management to at least 300 clients. Now we need your help to continue to make a difference in our community.

We welcome any financial contribution. We also embrace your donation in terms of volunteering with us.

Volunteers are needed to support BCA's visibility at street and community fairs, including: Juneteenth, SF LGBT Pride and the Castro Street Fair. For more information, please email

bcoa@bcoa.org or call **415-615-9945 extension 107**. We will place you according to your area/s of interest.



Wear it OUT for \$15

Help us build a healthy Black community with a purchase or more (as generosity is a blessing) of our t-shirts! This stylish ensemble of red, green, black and yellow will make you the talk of the town. Stand in solidarity! You can order your t-shirts at www.bcoa.org/donate.html Don't let Lawrence be the only one on the catwalk!

Departments at BCA

Each of our departments is accessible by calling 415-615-9945 and asking for the following extensions or departments...

- Client Services at ext. 120
- Prevention and Education at ext.114
- Wellness and Health Advocacy at ext.119
- Finance and Administration at ext.123
- Human Resources and Contract Compliance at ext.122
- Development and Communications at ext.107
- Volunteering at ext.107
- Executive Director at ext.103
- Newsletter at ext.102

Spirit



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR FUNDERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

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Taproot Foundation

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