

Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO BAY VIEW BLACK NEWSPAPER

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-001
Business Name: San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper
Business Address: 4917 3rd Street
District: District 10
Applicant: Mary and Willie Ratcliff, Editors
Nomination Date: July 27, 2018
Nominated By: Supervisor Malia Cohen
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper ("Bay View Newspaper") published its first edition in September 1976. The newspaper was founded by Bayview Hunters Point native Muhammad al-Kareem. Although he had no formal journalistic training or direct newspaper production experience, Mr. al-Kareem persisted and learned by doing. Mr. al-Kareem transferred ownership of the Bay View Newspaper to Mary and Willie Ratcliff in 1991. The paper was and is an informational and educational tool that gives voice to the African American community.

The newspaper is free and distributed widely throughout the neighborhood and beyond. From 1992 to 2008, the Ratcliffs distributed the paper door to door throughout Bayview Hunters Point and several public housing developments nearby. The paper also has an extensive subscription base: it is mailed to 3,000 subscribers, nearly all of them incarcerated in almost every state. With this large readership in the prison system, the newspaper serves as a significant family and community reintegration tool for formerly incarcerated individuals. Although the newspaper office has changed location several times over the years, it has always been located along the 3rd Street corridor.

The Bay View Newspaper was conceived as tool to spotlight Bayview Hunters Point and give to voice to African American residents citywide. Over the decades, San Francisco's African American population has seen a steady decline. As a result, the Bay View Newspaper now also reports on the broader issues of concern that affect communities of color.

The business is located on the east side of 3rd Street between Palou and Quesada avenues in the Bayview neighborhood.

CRITERION 1: Has the applicant operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?

Yes, the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:





SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

6220 3rd Street from 1976 to late 1980s (approximately 10 years)
5048 3rd Street from late 1980s to later 1980s (approximately 3 years)
1624 Oakdale Avenue from later 1980s to 1991 (approximately 2 years)
4401 3rd Street from 1991 to 1997 (6 years)
4908 3rd Street from 1997 to 2004 (7 years)
4917 3rd Street from 2004 to Present (14 years)

CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?

Yes, the applicant has contributed to the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood's history and identity.

The Historic Preservation Commission recommended the applicant as qualifying, noting the following ways the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community:

- San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper is associated with the craft of journalism and with African American history and culture.
- San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper has contributed to the history and identity of San Francisco by serving as a newspaper that gives voice to the African American community and specifically to the Bayview Hunters Point community.
- The business is associated with its founder Muhammad al-Kareem and current owners Willie and Mary Ratcliff, who are all considered important and significant members of the Bayview Hunters Point community. They have all contributed to the tradition of African American newspapers.
- The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status of "B" (Properties Requiring Further Consultation and Review) as the building was constructed in 1902 and has not been formally evaluated.
- Although the newspaper is listed in the draft African American Citywide Historic Context Statement as a resource, no information about the newspaper is included.
- In 1997, the paper was awarded the honor of being named 'The Black Newspaper of the Year by the National Black Chamber of Commerce. Among the Bay View's many other awards are the Society of Professional Journalists' Excellence in Journalism Award in 1996 and their Freedom of Information Award in 2004. The Bay View was named Best of the Bay by the Bay Guardian in 1997 and 2009.

CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?

Yes, San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions.





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Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Its mission to inform, educate, and rally the African American community, Bayview and beyond.
- Role as a communications network for the Black community worldwide.
- Distribution of a free print edition.
- Subscription service, including to prisoners throughout the country.
- Stories and commentary on the full range of Black trials and triumphs, including the economy, politics, arts, education, history, current events, health, and religion.
- Stunning color photography.
- An online newspaper.

CORE PHYSICAL FEATURE OR TRADITION THAT DEFINES THE BUSINESS

Following is the core physical feature or tradition that defines the business that would be required for maintenance of the business on the Legacy Business Registry.

- Publication covering the African American community.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper currently located at 917 3rd Street in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Program Manager
Legacy Business Program



Small Business Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO BAY VIEW BLACK NEWSPAPER

LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO. _____

<i>Application No.:</i>	LBR-2018-19-001
<i>Business Name:</i>	San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper
<i>Business Address:</i>	4917 3rd Street
<i>District:</i>	District 10
<i>Applicant:</i>	Mary and Willie Ratcliff, Editors
<i>Nomination Date:</i>	July 27, 2018
<i>Nominated By:</i>	Supervisor Malia Cohen
<i>Staff Contact:</i>	Richard Kurylo legacybusiness@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR SAN FRANCISCO BAY VIEW BLACK NEWSPAPER, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 4917 3RD STREET.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; or

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, has had no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, has significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included in the Registry, faces a significant risk of displacement; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on September 24, 2018, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore





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BE IT RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission hereby includes San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Its mission to inform, educate, and rally the African American community, Bayview and beyond.
- Role as a communications network for the Black community worldwide.
- Distribution of a free print edition.
- Subscription service, including to prisoners throughout the country.
- Stories and commentary on the full range of Black trials and triumphs, including the economy, politics, arts, education, history, current events, health, and religion.
- Stunning color photography.
- An online newspaper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper on the Legacy Business Registry:

- Publication covering the African American community.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on September 24, 2018.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –





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Legacy Business Registry

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-001
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Applicant: Mary and Willie Ratcliff, Editors
Nomination Date: July 27, 2018
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CRITERION 1: Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years? ☒ Yes ☐ No

6220 3rd Street from 1976 to late 1980s (approximately 10 years)
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4401 3rd Street from 1991 to 1997 (6 years)
4908 3rd Street from 1997 to 2004 (7 years)
4917 3rd Street from 2004 to Present (14 years)

CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community? ☒ Yes ☐ No

CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms? ☒ Yes ☐ No

NOTES: N/A

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: August 22, 2018

Richard Kurylo
Manager, Legacy Business Program





MALIA COHEN
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July 27, 2018

Office of Small Business
Attn: Small Business Commission
City Hall, Room 110
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper
Attn: Mary and Willie Ratcliff
4917 3rd Street
San Francisco, California 94124
(415) 671-0789

Re: Legacy Business Nomination for San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support to recognize the San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper, also known as the Bay View, as a Legacy Business.

The Bay View's continued presence in the Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) community for the past 40 years reflects the newspaper's strong following. The community's history and identity is seamlessly interwoven in each edition of the paper.

Founded in 1976 by Muhammad al-Kareem, the Bay View newspaper served as a tool to spotlight the BVHP community. Today, the newspaper continues to provide a voice to African American residents citywide. Mrs. Ratcliff and her husband Mr. Willie Ratcliff, purchased the newspaper in 1991 and have remained committed to the early vision for the printed paper and have also incorporated a larger perspective on national and global progressive social issues.

The newspaper's intent, quality, and prominent status defines it not only as a legacy to the Bayview community but also to the greater San Francisco community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Malia".

Malia Cohen
President, Board of Supervisors

Section One:

Business / Applicant Information. Provide the following information:

- The name, mailing address, and other contact information of the business;
- The name of the person who owns the business. For businesses with multiple owners, identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business;
- The name, title, and contact information of the applicant;
- The business's San Francisco Business Account Number and entity number with the Secretary of State, if applicable.

NAME OF BUSINESS:		
San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:	
	(415) 9671-0789	
	EMAIL:	
	editor@sfbayview.com	
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
http://sfbayview.com/	https://www.facebook.co	

APPLICANT'S NAME	
Mary and Willie Ratcliff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
APPLICANT'S TITLE	
Editors	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
	EMAIL:
	editor@sfbayview.com

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:	SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):

OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Staff	
NAME OF NOMINATOR:	DATE OF NOMINATION:

Section Two:

Business Location(s).

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business. If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
6220 3rd Street	94124	Sept 1976
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	1976 to late 1980s	

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
5048 3rd Street	94124	Start: late 1980s End: later 1980s

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
1624 Oakdale	94124	Start: later 1980s End: 1991

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
4401 3rd Street	94124	Start: 1991 End: 1997

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
4908 3rd Street	94124	Start: 1997 End: 2004

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
4917 3rd Street	94124	Start: 2004 End: present

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

Section Three:

Disclosure Statement.

San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws and Public Information Release.

This section is verification that all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses are current and complete, and there are no current violations of San Francisco labor laws. This information will be verified and a business deemed not current in with all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for the Business Assistance Grant.

In addition, we are required to inform you that all information provided in the application will become subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Please read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the statement. Then sign below in the space provided.

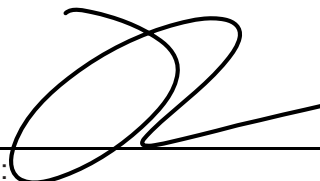
- ☒ I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- ☒ I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- ☒ I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- ☒ I attest that the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) has not determined that the business is currently in violation of any of the City's labor laws, and that the business does not owe any outstanding penalties or payments ordered by the OLSE.
- ☒ I understand that documents submitted with this application may be made available to the public for inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.
- ☒ I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.
- ☒ I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.

Russel Morine 5/25/2016

Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:



BAY VIEW NEWSPAPER

Section 4: Written Historical Narrative

CRITERION 1

a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquartered location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.

“A Black man gotta have something to get his word out, and from all this activity growing up in the community, that (the New Bayview newspaper) is what I came up with.” Muhammad al-Kareem: Interview by The People’s Minister of Information JR Valrey, 2016

The first edition of the New Bayview newspaper hit the stands in September of 1976. Although certainly not the first newspaper chronicling the African American experience, the New Bayview (later renamed the Bay View) is the first and only newspaper born out of the Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) African American community that is still in circulation after 40 years. From its humble beginnings to its present-day advocacy regarding progressive social issues in Bayview and beyond, the newspaper has been a voice for those all too often denied. Even with today’s social media ubiquity, the Bay View plays a critical role in shining the light on stories and issues too often ignored by other media outlets. The Bay View newspaper’s intent, body of work, and constant presence in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood defines it as not just a legacy San Francisco business, but as a San Francisco institution.

Founded in 1976 by Bayview Hunters Point native Muhammad al-Kareem, the newspaper was and is an informational and educational tool that gives voice to the African American community. The Bay View newspaper was born in the community it serves today. It has existed at various locations, but always within the BVHP along 3rd Street.

Muhammad al-Kareem grew up in the turmoil of the 1960s. Seeing firsthand the conflicts within America and how the call for change (and the resistance to change) played out in the streets, businesses, and organizations within the neighborhood, Mr. al-Kareem was inspired to give voice to his community, and the New Bayview newspaper was born. Although he had no formal journalistic training or direct newspaper production experience, Mr. al-Kareem persisted and learned by doing.

Mr. al-Kareem’s first office was located at 6220 3rd Street. The paper was produced at this location for several years. Sometime in the late 1980s, the paper relocated to 5048 3rd Street and later to 1624 Oakdale Avenue, right off 3rd Street. Over time, the New Bayview grew in both circulation and reputation. Mr. al-Kareem guided the paper’s growth for 15 years. The possibility of transferring ownership of the paper became an option as Mr. al-Kareem’s family

grew. He decided that the time was right to transfer ownership of the paper after meeting attorney Mary Ratcliff in 1991, wife of prominent local business owner/contractor Willie Ratcliff. The Ratcliffs purchased the newspaper and took over all aspects in 1991, moving the offices to 4401 3rd Street. The first edition printed under the Ratcliff's ownership hit the street on February 3, 1992. The Ratcliffs moved the paper's office to 4908 3rd Street from 1997 to 2004. Today the paper is produced out of their office at 4917 3rd Street.

From the beginning, the Ratcliffs distributed the paper to the people they wanted most to read it and write it. From 1992 to 2008, they distributed the paper door to door throughout Bayview Hunters Point and several public housing developments nearby.

The Ratcliffs have remained committed to the early vision for the printed paper but have also added an active website and a larger perspective on national and global progressive social issues. Most notable is the paper's extensive subscription base: it is mailed to 3,000 subscribers, nearly all of them incarcerated in almost every state.

b. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for more than six months?

Not Applicable.

c. Is the business a family-owned business? If so, give the generational history of the business.

The Bay View newspaper has been a family-owned business since 1991 when the Ratcliffs purchased it. A family-owned business is defined here as any business in which two or more family members are involved and the majority of ownership or control lies within a family.

d. Describe the ownership history when the business ownership is not the original owner or a family-owned business.

A history of the ownership of the Bay View newspaper is as follows:

1976 - 1991:	Muhammad al-Kareem
1991 - Present:	Willie and Mary Ratcliff

e. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years, the applicant will need to provide documentation of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.

Documentation of the existence of the business prior to the current ownership is proven by its continuous publication since 1976.

f. Note any other special features of the business location, such as, if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.

As an historic resource, the property at 4917-4923 3rd Street is classified by the Planning Department as Category B (Unknown / Age Eligible) with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act.

CRITERION 2

a. Describe the business's contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community or San Francisco.

Since its inception, the Bay View newspaper has reported on the struggles within San Francisco's African American community. By writing and sharing these stories with journalistic integrity, each edition of the paper preserved the community's history and identity. Although the capturing of events today is as simple as typing things on a computer and pushing a button, this was not so for most of the paper's existence. Without the Bay View newspaper, the story of the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood would be incomplete or worse, told only by those from outside of the community. The paper's original name tells a story. The story of a neighborhood that fights for its rightful place in San Francisco ... fights to build a new Bayview.

As times changed, the name changed to reflect a broader view of the African American experience in San Francisco and beyond. This 'view from the Bay' was echoed as the New Bayview newspaper became the Bay View newspaper. Although changed, the newspaper still preserves and carries on the legacy of reporting on issues affecting communities of color.

b. Is the business (or has been) associated with significant events in the neighborhood, the city, or the business industry?

The Bay View newspaper has covered countless events within the community and across the nation and globe for decades. It has shined the spotlight on issues that would otherwise not be covered by 'mainstream' media, such as the plight of Black owned business and unfair access to government contracts. In this regard, the Bay View is directly associated with significant events in the neighborhood and beyond.

"The Bay View was founded in 1976 by Muhammad al-Kareem to pull together the economic power of Black businesses in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood. Fifteen years later, when the newspaper was bought by the Ratcliff family, it expanded on that focus to also include fighting for City construction contracts at the SF International Airport, along Third Street for Muni light rail or to rebuild the Bayview Library.

"The newspaper also started to include stories fighting police terrorism, from the police murders of Aaron Williams, Idriss Stelley, Gus Rugley, Casper Banjo and Gary King to Oscar Grant, Lovelle Mixon, Kenneth Harding, Mario Woods and far too many more. We demanded

justice when Baby Finsta, hundreds of children at Thurgood Marshall High School, Nadra Foster, Rashida Petrovich and others were brutalized by police. And the Bay View fought environmental racism and shut down PG&E's Hunters Point power plant, and we're still fighting it at the radioactive Hunters Point Shipyard and Treasure Island.

"The Bay View has also had a lot to do with building on the local Hip Hop culture, helping to spread news about the careers of artists like Askari X, Big Herm, RBL, Kevin Epps, Malik and Karen Seneferu, Eesuu, Mac Mall, dead prez, Erykah Badu, Kev Choice, Dj Leydis, Paris, Mos Def, the Mechanix, D Labrie, Sista Iminah, Stoney Creation and with a host of others.

"The Bay View has also featured filmmakers like the late great Sam Greenlee of "The Spook Who Sat by the Door," Isilda Hurst of "Njinga: Queen of Angola," and Stanley Nelson, creator of the Panther doc "Vanguard of the Revolution.

"We were among few newspapers when we reported on the murders of political activist and grandson of Malcolm X, El Hajj Malcolm Shabazz, in Mexico City, police sponsored drug dealer Larry Davis, "Dark Alliance" author Gary Webb and the Bay Area conscious street rapper the Jacka in Oakland.

"Within the pages of the SF Bay View newspaper, you have heard the voices of political prisoners like Mumia Abu Jamal, Mondo we Langa, Mutulu Shakur, Jalil Muntquim, Imam Jamil Al-Amin, Rashid Johnson, Mutope Duguma, Bomani Shakur, Aaron Patterson, Chief Malik and others.

"The Bay View is a unique and powerful communications tool for organizing to end prison torture, connecting those inside prison with each other and the outside world. It's so effective that the California Department of Corrections blames the Bay View for the mass hunger strikes of 2011 and 2013, involving 30,000 prisoners at their peak, the largest prison strike in history. Thousands of prisoners in almost every prison in the country read the Bay View ...

"You have also heard from the international voices of movers and shakers like those on the ground and frontlines fighting against imperialism and corruption in Haiti, the Congo, Colombia, Venezuela, Libya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Nigeria, Cuba, Brazil, Zimbabwe and more."¹

c. Has the business ever been referenced in an historical context? Such as in a business trade publication, media, or historical documents?

As a print medium, the newspaper serves as a reference to decades of local history. It embodies the historical context of its namesake neighborhood.

¹ The People's Minister of Information JR. (2016, January 30). Celebrate 40 years of life in the Black Community: The SF Bay View Anniversary Party is Feb 21, 1-5 p.m., at SF Main Library – Free. Retrieved from <http://sfbayview.com/2016/01/celebrate-40-years-of-life-in-the-black-community-the-sf-bayview-anniversary-party-is-feb-21-1-5-p-m-at-sf-main-library-free/>

In 1997, the paper was awarded the honor of being named 'The Black Newspaper of the Year' by the National Black Chamber of Commerce. Among the Bay View's many other awards are the Society of Professional Journalists' Excellence in Journalism Award in 1996 and their Freedom of Information Award in 2004. The Bay View was named Best of the Bay by the Bay Guardian in 1997 and 2009.

d. Is the business associated with a significant or historical person?

The paper has chronicled numerous people that would be considered significant or historic. Founder Muhammad al-Kareem and current owners Willie and Mary Ratcliff are considered important and significant members of the Bayview Hunters Point community.

e. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?

The paper's birth and continued existence demonstrates a commitment to the community. The paper was born to tell the stories that were being overlooked. It became an important tool to fill the gap as once strong community-based organizations lost influence. The newspaper kept and keeps the community informed and educated. The newspaper is free and distributed widely throughout the neighborhood and beyond. The owners have always sought out local individuals to contribute and add to the editorial narrative. During the paper's earlier years, the owners would employ youth from the community to deliver the newspaper door to door.

Even though the newspaper would often feature stories that were critical to City Hall, editors unwaveringly demonstrated the commitment to community by never letting the 'establishment' control the message printed in each edition.

f. Provide a description of the community the business serves.

The Bay View newspaper was conceived as tool to spotlight Bayview Hunters Point and give to voice to African American residents citywide. Over the decades, San Francisco's African American population has seen a steady decline (see below). As a result, the Bay View newspaper now also reports on the broader issues of concern that affect communities of color. The Bay View newspaper continues to serve the African Americans in San Francisco as one of the last remaining independent source of news and events that generally go unreported or under reported. Although the paper has always been designed to highlight the odyssey of San Francisco's African American population, it must be stressed that the Bay View newspaper informs ALL readers, regardless of background or location.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Bayview-Hunters Point had the highest percentage of African-Americans among San Francisco neighborhoods, home to 21.5% of the city's Black population, and they were the predominant ethnic group in the Bayview. Census figures showed the percentage of African-Americans in Bayview declined from 48% in 2000 to 33.7% in 2010, while the percentage of Asian and White ethnicity increased from 24% and 10%, respectively, to 30.7% and 12.1%. However, the eastern part of the neighborhood had a

population of 12,308 and is still roughly 53% African-American.
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayview-Hunters_Point,_San_Francisco)

Today, African Americans still makes up the highest percentage of BVHP neighborhood residents, but not the majority of previous decades (i.e., not over 50%).

Historically, the neighborhood has been the home of working class blue collar families with a high rate of homeownership with pockets of residents living in public housing. The community has long been the focus of “revitalization” efforts, both internally and externally led. In recent years, the decades of investment in the community have arguably paid off. New businesses are willing to open in long-vacant 3rd Street storefronts. Mid- to large-scale housing developments have been completed with more on the horizon. The massive Hunters Point Shipyard redevelopment and the rebuilding of decayed public housing units are underway.

g. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building/structure/site/object/interior?

The building that houses office for the Bay View newspaper was built in 1902 and is typical of the mixed-use buildings of that era. Although the façade is largely intact, it would not be considered architecturally unique.

h. How would the community be diminished if the business were to be sold, relocated, shut down, etc.?

Without the Bay View newspaper, the community’s voice would be greatly diminished. The newspaper was born to fill a void in the community. It was meant to be a tool to share stories and experiences that would otherwise be unheard. Without the newspaper, there would be no easily accessible knowledge-based tool to educate and rally community concerns. The Bay View newspaper keeps the community on the same page. It must be emphasized that the newspaper also serves as a significant family and community reintegration tool for formerly incarcerated individuals. As noted, the newspaper has a large readership within the prison system, including those from San Francisco and BVHP. The local stories provide a link to ‘home’ so that when they return, there is some knowledge about the changes in the neighborhood in their absence. This may be a small point, but it is important that the newspaper be recognized on how it helps individuals.

CRITERION 3

a. Describe the business and the essential features that define its character.

“The San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper ... is a communications network for the Black community worldwide, with its website, www.sfbayview.com, the most visited Black newspaper on the web, second only to the Final Call, and free print edition that’s distributed

throughout the Bay Area and mailed to subscribers, including thousands of prisoners all over the country.”²

“Exciting, thought-provoking stories and commentary on the full range of Black trials and triumphs – covering the Black economy, politics, arts, education, history, current events, health, religion – and those of other communities, along with stunning color photography, fill the website and the pages of each paper, a paper so popular that it disappears within hours of hitting the stands.”³

“The Bay View is the paper people read cover to cover, trust, tack up on bulletin boards, forward to friends and fellow activists around the world, keep for reference, discuss and act on daily. Bay View readers from the ivory tower to the grass roots are active and involved, leaders of today and tomorrow. Especially popular with young people, the Bay View is used by many educators in their classrooms.”⁴

b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to retain the businesses historical character? (e.g., business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)

Technology has changed with the times. The printed medium is under constant pressure as advertising revenue drops while printing and mailing costs rise in the reality of the social media age. In response, the Bay View newspaper can also now be read online. This format shift was critical to the newspaper’s future, but notably there was not a shift in editorial perspective. The Bay View newspaper content has always represented the perspective of African Americans’ struggles in the community, be they local or elsewhere. This is the progressive tradition of the newspaper and should not be changed simply to expand readership or advertisements. The Bay View Newspaper has always spoken truth to power. Viewpoints can expand, but the paper should always remain focused on its mission to inform, educate, and rally the African American community, Bayview and beyond.

c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.).

The Bay View newspaper is best defined by the service it provides to the community. The continual production of the paper since 1976 is what defines the commitment to the community. The current office at 4917 3rd Street is not the paper’s original office. There are

² San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper. (n.d.). About Us. Retrieved from <http://sfbayview.com/about/>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

few physical features of this building that would be considered as defining characteristics in relationship to the newspaper.

d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.

The continuous production of the newspaper demonstrates that the current ownership has maintained the journalistic consistence that defines the newspaper.

“If somebody, you know, some little person (laughs) in the community is reading it, they’re gonna be inspired and they’re gonna do something great later on in life. The Black paper is necessary. It’s needed.” Muhammad al-Kareem: Interview by The People’s Minister of Information JR Valrey.



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4999 THIRD STREET

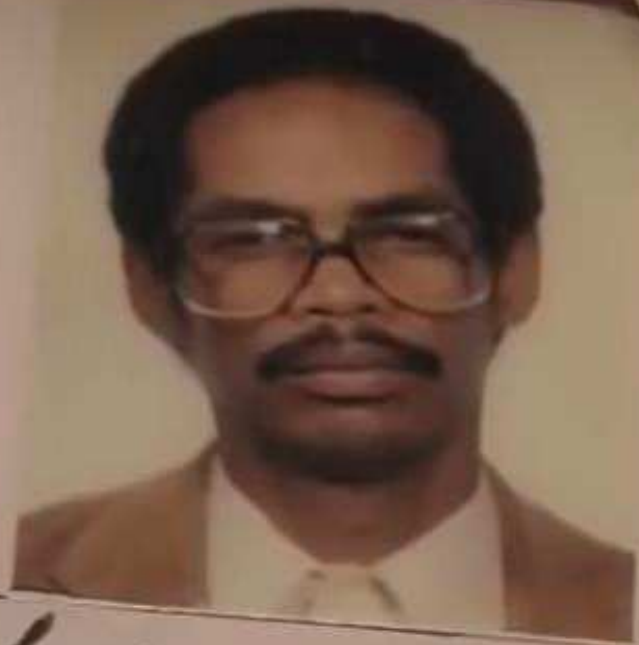
FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES

US BANK

Key View

1984 PRESS

Muhammad Al-Kareem



Name

Muhammad al-Kareem

Editor-in-Chief/MUHAMMAD AL-KAREEM

NEW BAYVIEW NEWSPAPER

6220 Third Street—San Francisco, Ca 94124—(415) 467-1070

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NEW BAYVIEW

VOL. 15, NO. 1

FEBRUARY 3, 1992

415-695-0713

FREE

Rev. Jesse Jackson Kicks Off Speaker Willie Brown's Campaign

Friday night five hundred voters welcomed Assembly Speaker Willie Brown home to the heart of his new district. As a mark of respect for his new constituents in Bayview Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley, the Speaker invited the Rev. Jesse Jackson to come in person and touch the crowd with his hands and his message of hope.

An Assemblyman since 1964, elected Speaker in 1980, Willie Brown has been called the most powerful person in California aside from the Governor. In his former district on the other side of San Francisco, Speaker Brown has consistently won 60 percent of the votes.

He expects his support in Bayview Hunters Point will be even stronger. "Our numbers will be so overwhelming that every time someone makes a public policy decision in this town, they will remember what you did for me," he predicted.

The Speaker called on the crowd that packed the Southeast Community Facility to come with him to City Hall Monday, February 10, at 10:00 a.m., when he officially files to run for office. "I'm going to City Hall, and

vote like Willie Brown" until the majority of elected officials are ready to do the people's will.

Before following Speaker Brown to the microphone, Rev. Jesse Jackson took time to talk

fighter for jobs, peace, and justice."

Dr. King celebrated his own last birthday, Rev. Jackson said, by planning a mass mobilization, the Poor People's March on



In the spirit of community, a union of hands and minds with determination for a better tomorrow.

(L to R) Jesse Jackson, Marcelle Cashmere, Willie Brown

listen, and pose for pictures with local heroes like Marcelle Cashmere, whose leadership helped build the legendary fighting spirit of Bayview Hunters Point.

Washington, and an end to war in Vietnam. We should celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday by increasing voter registration to empower the people and letting the

New Bayview Photographer Detained By Geneva Towers Guards

For half an hour last Wednesday, New Bayview photographer Hava Gurevich was surrounded, detained, and interrogated by armed security guards and management agents at Geneva Towers, the landmark highrise housing complex on Sunnydale Avenue.

Ms. Gurevich had gone to Geneva Towers at 4:30 Wednesday evening to visit tenant advocate and fellow New Bayview staff member Louise Vaughn and to shoot pictures for a photo essay on subsidized housing. "When I walked in," she said, "five armed guards greeted me at the doors. They refused to let me in."

The guards first insisted on knowing who she was visiting and then, when they learned she was a news photographer, what she wanted to photograph. Although the guards told her that no one is allowed to walk around Geneva Towers without a security escort, Ms. Gurevich said she did not see any tenants being escorted. Only the guards themselves, she said, always walked in pairs.

Worried about her visitor, Ms. Vaughn had called the San Francisco Police Department, and two officers responded. "She [Ms. Gurevich] is being detained over at the other building because she has a camera," explained the guard who accompanied the officers to Ms. Vaughn's apartment.

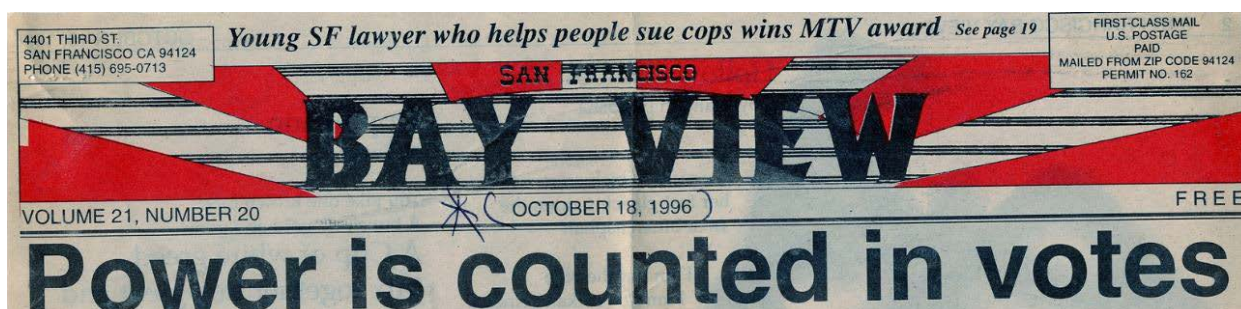
towers toward the other, the guards described every move on their walkie talkies, Ms. Gurevich said. "We are entering the parking lot." "We are crossing the parking lot," they announced.

Emerging from the dark lot up a few steps to ground level, one of the guards stopped and signaled with his hand over their heads to some men above, Ms. Gurevich said. "At this point I was terrified. His wave had all the body language of 'It's us. Don't shoot!'"

Five or six men in business suits stood waiting, she said, glaring at her with their arms folded. They told her they were liable and responsible for her safety. But she said they seemed most concerned about her camera, suggesting that the camera put her in special danger. They said Ms. Vaughn should have asked their permission before inviting her to Geneva Towers.

Finally, Ms. Vaughn arrived and found her visitor. She protested, "This is my private guest. You have no right to detain her. She came to see me." Ms. Vaughn took her guest by the hand.

As the two women walked through the complex together, Ms. Vaughn pointed out the poorly lit parking lots, the heavy doors with broken locks, and the many areas where a person could be trapped and not be heard



NEW BAYVIEW

T.M.

Newspaper Established In 1976

MUHAMMAD AL-KAREEM Editor and Publisher

ABDON J. UGARTE Managing Editor

CYNTHIA L. COWELL Associate Editor

ANTHONY SCOTT Proofreader

DAVID HENRY Photographer

ALLEN GREENKY

DONALD DUDLEY Distribution

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Member: West Coast Black Publishers Association
National Newspaper Publishers Association
Black Resources, Inc., New York, New York

Supporting The San Francisco Bay View Newspaper!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJKpVU8Hzw8>



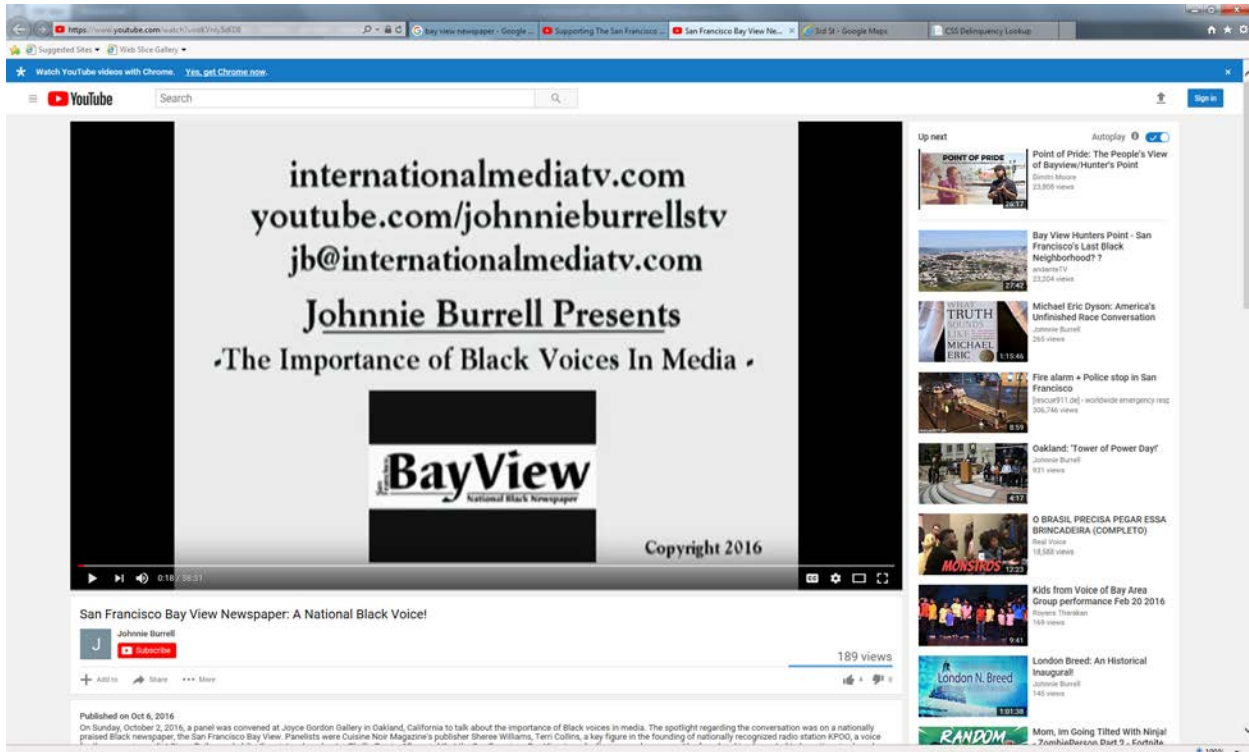
[Johnnie Burrell](#)

Published on Dec 19, 2016

Activist and book author Baba Jahahara Amen-RA Alkebulan-Ma'at talks to us about his experience with the San Francisco Bay View Newspaper and the importance of keeping this Black voice heard in the media. sfbayview.com africansdeservereparations.com

San Francisco Bay View Newspaper: A National Black Voice!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKVnly5xKD8>



[Johnnie Burrell](#)

Published on Oct 6, 2016

On Sunday, October 2, 2016, a panel was convened at Joyce Gordon Gallery in Oakland, California to talk about the importance of Black voices in media. The spotlight regarding the conversation was on a nationally praised Black newspaper, the San Francisco Bay View. Panelists were Cuisine Noir Magazine's publisher Sheree Williams, Terri Collins, a key figure in the founding of nationally recognized radio station KPOO, a voice for the young, journalist Cierra Bailey, and philanthropist and moderator Phyllis Bowie. All agreed that the San Francisco Bay View is under fire now and ways must be found and implemented to keep its voice heard. Tune in! sfbayview.com kpoo.com joycegordongallery.com kevinwoodson.com cuisinenoirmag.com



[Bay View founding publisher: I was inspired by Malcolm, Martin, Elijah and the 1966 HP Uprising](#)

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February 8, 2016

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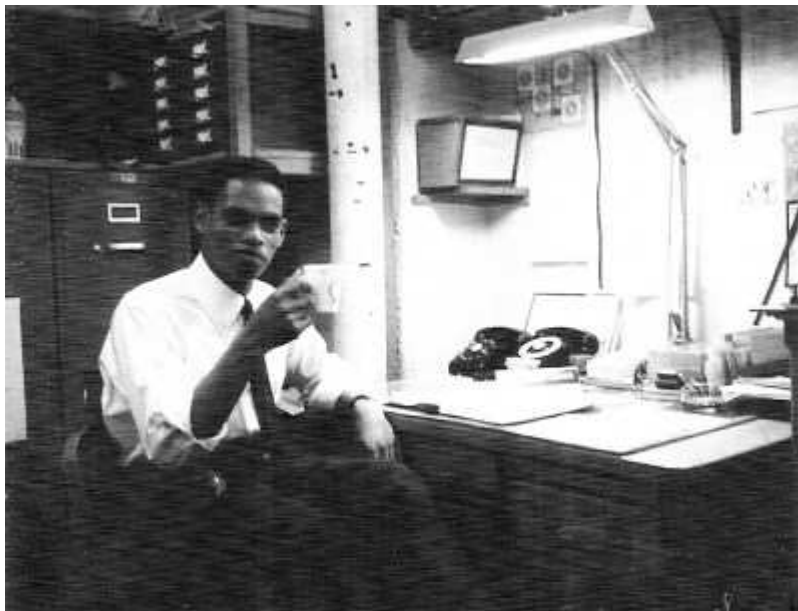
Interview of Muhammad al-Kareem by The People's Minister of Information JR Valrey

Muhammad al-Kareem founded the New Bayview newspaper, later renamed San Francisco Bay View, in 1976 and turned it over to the Ratcliffs in late 1991. So in 2016, we're excited to be celebrating the newspaper's 40th anniversary, beginning on Sunday, Feb. 21, 1-5 p.m., at the Main Library, 100 Larkin St., San Francisco.

You'll hear Muhammad, a panel consisting of writers associated with the Bay View in different eras, a fashion show hosted by Big Ole Pretty Girls founder Yolanda Y'Netta, and musicians Avotcja, Stoney Creation and Sista Iminah reminding us of the beauty and talent within our community. We'll serve food, too – and it's all FREE. Spread the word!



Muhammad al-Kareem founded the New Bayview in September 1976. This photo was taken about that time.



Muhammad al-Kareem in his office back in the day

but I never could find out who to see to get the copies and so forth. I was just inspired with seeing newspapers and publications I got.

The Sun Reporter – they were publishing. Dr. Goodlett and Tom Fleming and his team, they used to put out the paper – wow, like 48 pages! What they're doing now ain't nothing like what they did back then. They was publishing a 48-page tabloid. His tabloid was like 17 inches deep.

M.O.I. JR: Muhammad, tell us what was happening in the Bayview Hunters Point community prior to your founding of the New Bayview newspaper and what inspired you to found a newspaper?

Muhammad al-Kareem: Well, what inspired me was, when I was a teenager, I used to see the brothers – they used to come around Hunters Point selling the paper, Muhammad Speaks, and I used to sell papers on the corner. I used to sell the San Francisco News-Call Bulletin on the street when the people came out the Shipyard, and I used to see them brothers selling Jet Magazine. I really wanted to sell Jet Magazine,

Nothing like the lil Examiner today, it was deep and thick, every week!

I was inspired watching Martin Luther King marching. I was inspired by Malcolm X. And the funny thing about that, people was going in a direction to see who we gonna be like, you know. The inspiration came from all these things, growing up in the neighborhood – getting back to Malcolm X on the TV and Martin Luther King. I didn't hardly see the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and then Malcolm got killed.

The brothers in Hunters Point, the older brothers, they was down. They knew a lot of stuff, man. They wasn't no dummies. Hunters Point, man, they were intellectual. Them brothers, they wasn't stupid. They were smart brothers. It's just the situation that they was in portrayed them as being unorganized and so forth like that.

They weren't organized when we had the riots (known as the Hunters Point Uprising, beginning Sept. 27, 1966). I mean we was at the riots – we was out there and didn't have no guns! How you gonna – now how in the hell I'ma be out there ain't got no gun? Somebody shooting at the police with a .22 or a zip gun or whatever, and I'm in the middle of all of this. I got my ass out the way from all that stuff (laughs)!

But the thing is then I begin to see you gotta have a vehicle to put your news out. Just like when I relinquished the paper to Ratcliff. I ain't got nothing against them, but I realized, hey man, you got to have a vehicle to say what you wanna say! You know, a radio station – something, a soapbox or preaching or whatever.

1966 riot recalled

National Guard tanks were rolling down Third Street and police in full riot gear were lined up with rifles trained on the Opera House, which was loaded with young people and children. Many of our youth were wounded, though no one was killed.



Harold Brooks (PHOTO: HEIDI HARDIN)

what it is today, and here to tell you the story, we are proud to introduce one of Bayview Hunters Point's community activists, Mr. Harold Brooks.

Harold Brooks: I am here tonight to describe the Bayview Hunters Point riots and some of the other events that happened in our part of town.

On September 26, 1966, the police shot Matthew "Peanuts" Johnson on Griffith Street. The police thought the boy had stolen a car. Peanuts, seeing the police coming after him, became frightened and started running. The police

See OUR PART, page 2

"Our Part of Town," a play recently performed at the Bayview Opera House, recalled the 1966 riots. Clippings in a book compiled to accompany the play relate that "after the 1966 Hunters Point riot," the federal government granted \$150 million, which, under community control, built 3,000 new homes and transformed Butchertown into the India Basin Industrial Park, creating 4,000 jobs. Here is the description of the riot from the play's script.

Narrator: Now let's go back in time to 1966 when the men and women of Bayview Hunters Point pulled together. It was a struggle to get Bayview Hunters Point to be

Harold Brooks, BVHP Champion and good friend to both Bay View publishers, al-Kareem and Ratcliff, was featured on the front page of the Sept. 16, 1994, New Bayview, the paper's original name.

A Black man gotta have something to get his word out, and from all this activity growing up in the community, that's what I came up with. And then I realized you gotta have some – some money. You gotta be independent. I'm sitting at home in my little place and I'm employed. I'm self-employed. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught us you got to be self-employed. I mean you can't be going down with the whims of these people, "I got to be here at 12 o'clock" or "I get off at 6."



Two Black San Francisco newspaper publishers, Muhammad al-Kareem of the New Bayview and Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett of the Sun-Reporter, were allies and champions for the community, Goodlett located in and focusing on the Fillmore, Kareem the Bayview.

Doing the paper was a good way to get organized, get the message out. They even had a paper one time called the Spokesman. They didn't get too far, and I don't know if they got the funding from the Model Cities or before the Model Cities, but the government does not sanction loans or grants to private newspapers. They do not do that. You can't get no loan or nothing. You got to do that on your own.

That's how I was inspired, through, all this activity. Being under the training, being FOI – the Fruit of Islam – and traveling to Chicago, once they got broke, I learned that SF Bay Area had they own, but I was able to get away from their crew and hook up with the Chicago crew – and then I begin to see the power and looked at it from a different perspective. Now I can see why things

I mean, we at war! Man, we got to do what we got to do. The Nation of Islam, under the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, inspired me. I lived in Chicago for a short time, and I mean, I was down with that, real down with that. I was serious business. I wasn't no – I wasn't like those brothers in Hunters Point; they was hardcore. I wasn't hardcore like they was but I was able to relate to them, and they was able to relate to me.

They wasn't coming with Muhammad, and we had an opportunity to bring them brothers in with Muhammad. Then Malcolm got killed and things happened and then Model Cities came and then the money, you know, everybody fighting for that money. Eloise Westbrook and her team, she always getting that money (for rebuilding the housing on Hunters Point Hill, which Ms. Westbrook and the rest of the Big Five got by going to D.C. and bluffing their way into a private meeting with the HUD secretary).



Mr. A. Thomas, journalism instructor at Woodrow Wilson High, reads the New Bayview.

happened during the time of Malcolm X and so forth.

I wasn't able to be on the same level as Huey Newton or Eldridge Cleaver, Marvin X. I never really met Huey Newton, but I seen him when he came down to Joe Lee (Rec Center) but I didn't get a chance to talk with him. I knew Adam Rogers very well. The people that became the players later on in life, I knew 'em, so they could trust me and I could talk with them, you see what I'm saying? So when I joined the Nation of Islam, it was like, "Oh yeah, well, right on brother. Do your thing."



In September 1966, SFPD shot Bayview Hunters Point resident Matthew "Peanut" Johnson, 16, in the back as he ran when accused of joyriding. Mayor Shelley called the National Guard and their tanks to put down the rebellion that ensued, and Hunters Point became a place feared 'round the world. In December 2016, SFPD executed Bayview Hunters Point resident Mario Woods, 26, firing squad style. The protests that have ensued, including a march down Market Street to Super Bowl City on Saturday, Jan. 30, when marchers were barred from entering by hundreds of militarized cops, have made their hood feared – and respected – at City Hall and everywhere people hear and see Super Bowl news. – Graphic: Eddie Rifkind and Jennifer Raviv



When a Black construction worker was killed on the job building the sewage treatment plant in BVHP, which residents had strongly opposed until they won mitigation, Mayor George Moscone, shown here with Hawk, James Hawkins, came out to speak to the community. SF Blacks “voted 100%” in those days and got a lot of attention from City Hall. With the Justice for Mario Woods Coalition holding the city in virtual siege and Mayor Ed Lee’s hair getting white by the day, maybe that attention will return.

thought maybe I could do it in my community (of Bayview Hunters Point), but we was so fragmented.

M.O.I. JR: What was the paper about originally? What did you set out to accomplish?

Muhammad al-Kareem: Man, we just trying to get it out. First we had to – I had to figure out a way to deal with these merchants out here. They had us like – you know, the businesses out here, they didn’t really want us out here. These white businesses? Aw, man they didn’t like us Black folk. I don’t know why we would still – I went there, but I was young – a teenager 12, 15 years old. I don’t know what the politics was – they don’t like us, you understand. And Sam Jordan, he was like the only person that I knew that was standing up. He wanted to get the word out, the truth out to the people on what’s really going down.

M.O.I. JR: Do you feel like it accomplished that goal?

Muhammad al-Kareem: At that time? Yeah! I mean it took a long time; it took like five years to get it going. The finance! To publish a newspaper, you have to have finance. I didn’t know that.

Dr. Goodlett was a doctor with an M.D., a psychologist with a Ph.D., a businessman. I didn’t know all that. I didn’t find that out until later on in life. These people, the Black publishers who had newspapers, they were professional people – insurance, business people, doctors, lawyers. I’m tryna get out there, but I ain’t got nothing. I didn’t know my ass from a hole in the ground. So I was trying to accomplish something like what Goodlett was doing in his community (the Fillmore). I

So the first stage was to try to develop a business in terms of advertising coming in every month.



Muhammad al-Kareem meets with Hamp "Bubba" Banks at his mayoral campaign office.

You gotta have revenue every month. So I think the first issue we raised – man, we had almost \$500. I was surprised! But I had help from a couple of other businesses. Michael Williams, him and his sister-in-law had Liz Fashion.



Muhammad al-Kareem meets newly elected Jamaica President Edward Seaga at an NNPA convention there in about 1989.

And my friend from Hunters Point who was in the vanguard, Alonzo Roger, we was trying to get that foundation so we could do it every month. You have to be consistent every month.



At a convention of the NNPA, National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Black press, are Dr. Carlton Goodlett of the Sun Reporter, Tom Berkley of the Oakland Post and an Ohio publisher.

Then I was gonna try to bring in an editorial. So you kinda walk softly – to develop, you know, you don't want to talk too much about the movement; you gotta kinda get in first. People want to see if you're gonna survive, so you don't wanna get too controversial.

But we did get controversial, and my friend and protégé, Harold Brooks – everybody knew Harold Brooks. We were teenagers, except he was an older brother, I think he came out of the Navy from Chicago. But anyway he was like the – the ringleader. He knew all the activities that's going on with the Model Cities. He was pretty sharp, because he was leading us and he was, you know – he wasn't scary.

That's another thing that I notice. Some of these people out here, they scary – they have fear in 'em. And they still got fear in 'em now in 2015!

But we accomplished getting that out. I wasn't a real skilled writer. English wasn't my worst subject. But I hadn't

learned from going to college and trying to get a AA and a BA and I went to different schools and stuff. We hooked up with different people.

Now I tried to get in with Marvin and Eldridge and I tried to see where they were coming from. And I met the publisher over there at the Post Newspaper, Tom Berkeley. He was another brother we hooked up. Now Yusuf Bey – that's the only one out of all these people out in the Bay Area that was standing on his ground and talking the talk and walking the talk. Out of all them folks, he's the only one. Even in the temple, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad Temples of Islam, he was the only one – that's it, yes, sir.

M.O.I. JR: When did you sell the Bay View to the Ratcliff family?

Muhammad al-Kareem: Well, I sold the paper (laughs). I said, brother, I can't do anything with it. I had just got married. I was struggling trying to put the paper out and trying to take care of my family. I been had my wife on my case and just – the responsibility of being a – a man! I had to weigh that with, you know, I had done it so long, 15 years. And I said, well, I got all the major advertisers. I was able to meet all the publishers all over the country.

But when it comes down to it, you know, I had to pay



Newsmakers Sylvester Brown, founding president of the Brown Bombers youth sports teams, and trucker Charlie Walker talk with newsman Muhammad al-Kareem.



The Hunters Point Joint Housing Committee demanded not only that attractive new housing be built on Hunters Point Hill but that it be built by Blacks, by the people who live there. To a large extent, those demands were met.

my rent on time. I had two or three different locations at one time – I'm trying to pay rent on my house, pay the rent over here, paying the office on Third – I had two offices on Third and we had to combine it. It was a whole lot of stuff I went through.

But the only reason I sold it – it was a love – I really loved doing that, but I had to make a decision if I was gonna take care of my family or try to deal with these negroes out here, 'cause there are a lot of them – they ain't gonna support you. Our people don't support us like we should. They mean well (laughs), but we don't

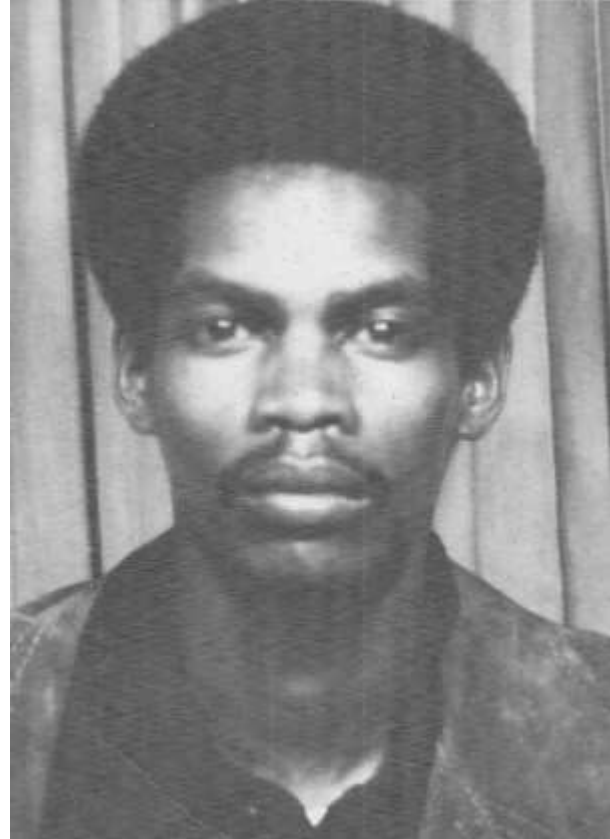
support us like we supposed to support us.

M.O.I. JR: Now that it's been decades since you sold the San Francisco Bay View newspaper, how do you look at it today? When you read the Bay View in Hunters Point, what is your analysis of where it has gone under the Ratcliffs, under me, under different people that played a part in the leadership. How do you feel about the path that it's taken?

Muhammad al-Kareem: I think it's phenomenal (laughs)! People were asking for that paper. "Aw man, let me buy it." Oh yeah, they was mad at me. Manny, he tried to hang around me, he was mad at me – I wasn't selling it to him. But I saw something in Mary – she that white lady. I ain't got – you know, I don't have no problem with the brothers marrying white women – my nephews and nieces, they do what they wanna do – but me? I'm gonna stick with the Black woman.

But anyway, I saw Mary when I was president of the Muslims Association. That was another way I was trying to get in to develop that paper. I saw the only way I could keep this paper going was I have to be in some leadership position in a business organization that they can't remove me, that I be right in there when the news gets off, or whatever's gonna break ground, I'm gonna be right there in it.

So Mary was, you know, it was phenomenal that she did that. I saw something in Mary, and I said, well, I always kept it in my mind she was always asking me about it: "Oh, let me help you with the paper" – "If you sell it . . ." You know, she kind of figured I would sell it. Well – it took me a while, maybe about six months or so, but anyway, I saw something in her, and I didn't meet Willie Ratcliff – that's why I sold it to them and I don't regret that I sold it to them, 'cause, you know, I respect what they did, 'cause putting out no paper ain't no joke! (laughs). It's a 24 hour 7 days a week process, 'cause the news is being made by the second, by the minute, by the hour, by the day.



Muhammad al-Kareem in 1974, two years before he founded the New Bayview newspaper.

M.O.I. JR: Now that the Bay View newspaper is turning 40 years old, what do you think about that?

Muhammad al-Kareem: Well, that's phenomenal! Now, I mean, people say, "Oh man when you ..." Yeah, I started it, but they're doing their thing. I gotta do my thing



Middle Point public housing (officially called Hunters View) was under reconstruction, and Blacks were largely excluded from the work as usual, so young people agitated for the jobs they were entitled to. Just prior to the current reconstruction and conversion to “mixed-income” housing, meaning fewer units for very low income residents who had lived there for decades, the City managed to criminalize and imprison most of the young men, thus limiting the community’s ability to protest.

on Third Street. They used to sell cars on Third Street and Ocean Avenue.

Me and Tolliver, Mr. Tolliver, he didn’t hardly charge me no rent. I hardly paid, but at least we had a beautiful office, man! I left the office one day and forgot to lock the front door. I came back and I was worried, man, they might do something. Man, that office was still there when I got there. Ain’t nothing happen in that office. We was right across the street from the Waterloo, 6220 Third St.; B&J was right there on the corner, where Gilman and Paul Avenue run together.

So, you know, it’s phenomenal that they kept the paper together. I have to give them – I have to salute the Ratcliffs! You don’t have to agree, but it’s necessary to have the different views. Somebody have to

now. I ain’t got no jealousy – animosity. It be, “Oh man . . . I don’t like” – “Well, they got all this stuff in there” blah, blah, blah. Well, when I had the paper, did y’all help me doing it? Naw. Some of you did, some of you didn’t.

Some of you put the bankroll behind it. I got some cash money, couple thousand here, thousand there, you know. I had people that supported me. Mr. Tolliver, now I have to say that Joshua Tolliver, he’s a contractor. His son, Joshua Tolliver Jr., we shared an office together. He was selling cars, and he worked with Murchison.

Murchison was the first Black (car) salesman in whole San Francisco! He worked for Roger Boas, used to be the city manager for the City and County of San Francisco, but Murchison “Murch” worked for Boas Pontiac. He used to sell cars



When the School District’s contractor for the rebuilding of Willie Brown School, now a middle school in Bayview Hunters Point, excluded Black workers even from the demolition of the old building, much less the for the new construction, the community was up in arms, and Charlie Walker, Muhammad

get that word out. If somebody, you know, some little person (laughs) in the community is reading it, they're gonna be inspired and they're gonna do something great later on in life. The Black paper is necessary. It's needed.

al-Kareem, Willie Ratcliff and Mike Brown protested at the Feb. 12, 2013, School Board meeting. – Photo: Ken Johnson

If somebody, you know, some little person (laughs) in the community is reading it, they're gonna be inspired and they're gonna do something great later on in life. The Black paper is necessary. It's needed.



Muhammad with his Godmother, Dolores Sanders, in 2011

M.O.I. JR: No doubt. Well, thank you, sir! Last but not least, can you tell us what you're into now? Can you tell us about your new newspaper?

Muhammad al-Kareem: Oh well, (laughs) I'm starting my paper. We published the first edition in October 2015. We don't have a regular date yet. I'm just kinda doin a PR trying to promote it. People say, "Oh man, why don't you get a website or put out a newsletter, do something!" I'm saying OK, so I started – I did a job, I had a job working for the union (as a painter). I made almost \$4,000 in like less than a month.

So I said, "Man, I need to start the paper again." I wanted to focus on something that they weren't focusing on. The Bay View has their own niche. The Sun Reporter has a niche and the Post Newspapers. So I said that I want to find a niche for me and I wanted to be able to get the word out from my own perspective on what I see happening. So that's what's happening. I want to get the word out – things that people don't know about the politics in this community. It's really something – the dynamics of the politics.

And that boy got killed Dec. 2, 2015, Mario Woods. Now, I'm seeing more support from people outside the community. But a lot of people in the community are pissed off too about them police killing that boy. But the politics, the dynamics – the money that Lennar done paid everybody off. These preachers – I said, what is going on – they done paid everybody; they ain't gonna say nothing.

‘Cause the mayor is Ed Lee and Ed Lee controls the police department and that’s why they need to get rid of that police chief and next they get rid of the mayor. So, I didn’t know the dynamics of it. But they got the general orders – I knew the soldiers have their general orders, but I didn’t know the police department have their own general orders. And the mayor is the head of the police department in San Francisco.

So, I want to get the word out and get the truth out about the real, what’s really going on. But I have to deal with all these dynamics of this community to try to get the word out with the paper that I’m developing.



At the Super Bowl City Grand Opening Protest March and Rally on Saturday, Jan. 30, Muhammad al-Kareem, still gathering the news, holds a poster for the media cameras as Phelicia Farr speaks. Phelicia is a lead organizer with the Justice for Mario Woods Coalition. – Photo: Davey D

Ed Lee controls the police department and that’s why they need to get rid of that police chief and next they get rid of the mayor.

M.O.I. JR: Well, thank you, Mr. Muhammad al-Kareem, the original founding publisher of the San Francisco Bay View newspaper. We appreciate you sharing the history – your history as well as the history of the San Francisco Bay View Newspaper and what inspired you to create it. Thank you.

Muhammad al-Kareem: Well, you’re welcome, and I want to thank you for keeping up your effort with the Ratcliffs and the Bay View paper and getting out the word. I’m glad to see it and now I can pass the baton and sit back and watch you!

M.O.I. JR: Right on. I’m gonna go as hard as ever.

I am The People’s Minister of Information JR, signing off for www.blockreportradio.com. Until next time, we out.

The People’s Minister of Information JR Valrey is associate editor of the [Bay View](http://www.bayview.com), author of “[Block Reportin’](#)” and “[Unfinished Business: Block Reportin’ 2](#)” and filmmaker of “[Operation Small Axe](#)” and “[Block Reportin’ 101](#),” available, along with many more interviews, at www.blockreportradio.com. He can be reached at blockreportradio@gmail.com.

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NEWS

BAY VIEW TURNS 40!

WRITTEN BY JM ON 04/20/2017



Bay View turns 40!

Part 1

Editorial by Bay View publisher Dr. Willie Ratcliff

It's 2016, 40 years since Muhammad al-Kareem founded the New Bayview, now renamed the San Francisco Bay View, in 1976. Inspired by Malcolm X, he wanted to bring a newspaper like Muhammad Speaks to Bayview Hunters Point. He'll tell the story of those early years, and I'll pick it up now at the point when my wife Mary and I took over in 1992.

Watching our first paper roll through the huge two-story tall lumbering old press at Tom Berkley's Post



The New Bayview was 15 years old when we took it on. This is our first paper. From that paper, dated Feb. 3, 1992, to now, January 2016, we've published 785 papers.



Newspaper Building on Feb. 3, 1992, was a feel-like-flying thrill we'll never forget. Tom Berkley and Carlton Goodlett of the Sun Reporter are the giants of Bay Area Black newspaper publishing on whose shoulders I stand.

"The New Bayview newspaper, published since 1966 by Mr. Muhammad al-Kareem, has changed ownership," announces a story in our first issue. "Mr. al-Kareem founded the New Bayview 15 years ago to serve 'as a positive force in the struggle for freedom.' ... The New Bayview's new owners, Willie and Mary Ratcliff, pledge to continue the tradition of courageous journalism."

Courage was on the front page of that Feb. 3, 1992, paper. We'd called a meeting of volunteers to staff the paper, and two of them, well known tenant organizer Louise Vaughn and Hava Gurevich, a tiny young red-headed Russian photojournalist, had teamed up for a photo story on Geneva Towers. The twin 22-story towers, built as luxury housing for the 1 percent, were occupied by then by the 99 percent, their rent HUD subsidized.

Typical of low-income housing, the Towers were patrolled by a security crew mostly comprised of moonlighting cops – sleep deprived, mean and brutal. "I began to feel like in a prison camp," Ms. Gurevich reported. "Who are they protecting? They tried to stop me every time I raised my camera."

That was after Louise Vaughn had rescued her from a jail cell in the basement. She'd been jailed for bringing a camera to the Towers. "How long must we watch housing management capitalize off the poor?" asked Louise, referring, in the case of Geneva Towers, to the notorious John Stewart Co. A company grown fat over the decades, its founder once sidled up to Mary at a Geneva Towers meeting to brag, "I control 35,000 Black people in this city."

"The New Bayview newspaper, published since 1966 by Mr. Muhammad al-Kareem, has changed ownership," announces a story in our first issue.

Also in that first paper 24 years ago were stories on Rev. Jesse Jackson kicking off California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown's re-election campaign, "Muni Metro on Track to Bayview," the inauguration of San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan picketed by homeless artists, testimony of Kevin Williams to the U.S. Commission on Minority Business Development on white contractors' refusal to observe and

cities to enforce affirmative action in construction, David Alston's entertainment column, reporting on Danny Glover and Harry Belafonte's fundraiser to restore the Bayview Opera House, where Danny learned acting, "Sharing the Challenge: HIV and AIDS in Our Community" and an essay by a college student about losing her shame of living in public housing.

Printing that first paper was paid for by 30 ads for local businesses, nearly all of them Black, plus nine churches and one mosque. We'd jump for joy to have that kind of Black business support today. More Black businesses might have survived if they'd kept advertising.



"Over 13,000 New Voters Registered in Hunters Point, Vis Valley, OMI, Fillmore" to defeat Prop 165 to cut welfare 25 percent was the banner headline Oct. 2, 1992 – 450 of those new registrants housed at the San Francisco County Jail. We proudly endorsed Dr. Ahimsa Sumchai, one of the registration campaign leaders, who was running for College Board.

"Jobs, Not Jails" hollered the front page of the next issue, on Oct. 16, 1992 – we were publishing twice a month in those early years – over a story urging a No vote on a \$158 million bond to build a new jail. "San Francisco Jail Blacks at Twice National Rate, Ten Times Rate in So. Africa" headlined another front page story reporting on a new study by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.

"Clinton Promises Jobs" reports presidential candidate Bill Clinton's promises to "concentrate on economic growth – jobs, businesses and affordable housing – in the inner cities," to create 100 community development banks and end redlining. Are the Clintons credible?

And notice the echo of those headlines today – a campaign for jobs not jails and a Clinton running for president counting on Black votes. The issues persist, but this year we soundly defeated a new San Francisco jail.

Another theme that still echoes was struck in that issue by Jacquie Taliaferro in "Film Festivals: Who's Invited?" He introduced readers to FESPACO, the festival held in Burkino-Faso, and told how Spike Lee got his start. David Alston was promoting En Vogue and RBL Posse.



By July 2, 1993, Hunters Point legend Charlie Walker was writing a column on the back page called "Why Has Nothing Worked?" "There is but one way to come up from under the madness. We must own and operate the businesses in our community," he preached.

Sam Jordan, "Mayor of Butchertown" and BVHP's best known restaurateur, touted the economic potential of the ghetto. Though we were once forced to live here, "the ghetto has proven to be a plus for those of us who are strong. ... Let's work hard to turn our money over in our community at least 12 times. Wake up, giants!"

A front page editorial in that issue, "Ed Lee Calling Kevin Williams 'Ignorant' and 'Sleazy' Is OK, Human Rights Commission Rules," slams Ed Lee, San Francisco's current mayor, then director of the Human Rights Commission, who insulted the only HRC staffer who fought for the Black businesses the agency had been created to serve. Another front page headline that echoes today is "Jailing Blacks Puts California in Poorhouse."

From the beginning, we distributed the paper to the people we wanted most to read it and write it. From 1992 to 2008, we distributed the paper door to door throughout Bayview Hunters Point and several public housing developments nearby. A lively flock of children threw the paper for many years – young adults still greet us with "You gave me my first job!" and sometimes it's the only job they ever had. When the shooting got too heavy, adults took over.

Then as now we also dropped the paper at literally hundreds of stores, churches, libraries, community centers – and at the San Francisco County Jail, where the paper was read and carried on into state prisons. By the Nov. 19, 1993, issue, several prisoners were among the writers. Rodney A. Wrice, aka Kango, wrote: "I have spent time in most Level 4 high security prisons – yes, even Pelican Bay, which is being charged with the very racism that we as Blacks or African Americans face each day ...

"With blood in my eye, I now, once a street kid, speak consciously with the mind of a guerrilla. It is time that we as intelligent adults, gangsters, heroes and leaders give back to our youth their youth and teach them the identity of responsibility ... that Black-on-Black violence breeds only Black hate from within.



"Society's jails and prisons are full of Black inmates. Our streets are full of Black blood ... We must teach liberating concepts." The unruly younger prisoners that the Pelican Bay SHU veterans, now released to the mainline, are encountering come from that reality.

From the beginning, we distributed the paper to the people we wanted most to read it and write it.

Death row prisoner Steve Crittenden wrote the lead editorial, "Lift Every Voice: End the Death Penalty," arguing, "We are the only free country which says that if a person is not the right color and has no money, the chances are that he will never encounter justice." That Nov. 19, 1993, issue also has a series of "Personals" from prisoners like today's "Pen Pals Wanted."



"We Shall Not Be Moved" blasts the big banner headline on March 4, 1994, over a story by Louise Vaughn, "Agnos and Jordan conspire to drive Blacks out of Southeast San Francisco: Two bitter competitors come together to practice genocide on Blacks," referring to then HUD Regional Director – and former mayor – Art Agnos and then current mayor, Frank Jordan. That issue and other Bay View papers are featured in an exhibit currently at the San Francisco Main Library called "I Am San Francisco" about the days when the city was home to 100,000 Black people, most of them gone now, unable to heed that banner headline.

On April 15, 1994, my front page editorial, "Stop! Before we Slide Back into Slavery," read: "Voter registration workers, hurrying to register African American voters before the May 7 deadline, are meeting many who are simply afraid to register. They are afraid of being found, of being noticed, of speaking out – even by casting a secret ballot. Why?"



"1) If they have a job, they're afraid of losing it. San Francisco, lacking a Black business base, leaves Blacks little choice but to work for whites, who rarely tolerate outspoken 'uppity' Black folks.

"2) If they have a home, they're afraid of losing it. In San Francisco, at least 70 percent of African Americans live in HUD-assisted public or low-income housing where speaking out gets you an eviction notice.



"3) If they have children they're afraid of losing them. State officials say San Francisco's DSS is the worst in the state for its habit of snatching Black babies away from their parents and placing them in distant white suburbs where many have died.

"4) If they are out of jail, they're afraid of losing their freedom. San Francisco jails Black men at a rate 10 times higher than South Africa. This city, studies say, has the highest Black incarceration rate in California, which has the highest rate in the U.S., which has the highest rate in the 'civilized' world.

"So their fears are well founded. It's hard to be Black in San Francisco."

"1966 riot recalled" shouted a front page headline in the Sept. 16, 1994, issue. Bayview Hunters Point was deeply traumatized by what's known as the '66 Hunters Point Uprising, when, on Sept. 26, 1966, police shot Matthew "Peanuts" Johnson in the back, murdering him, and the community exploded.

Instead of setting fire to the Third Street corridor, where most businesses were still Black-owned, Hunters Point youth fought to drive out and keep police off their hill. The mayor's response was terrifying.

"National Guard tanks were rolling down Third Street and police in full riot gear were lined up with rifles trained on the Opera House, which was loaded with young people and children. Many of our youth were wounded, though no one was killed," was our summary of the story Harold Brooks told in a play at the Bayview Opera House that was shut down after one performance.

Harold, a beloved community organizer, had briefly broken the silence that had gripped the neighborhood ever since. Oldtimers are only now replacing shame with pride when they recall how, as teenagers, they scared the powers that be enough to put "Hunters Point Riot" in headlines around the world. Nineteen days later, on Oct. 15, 1966, the Black Panther Party was founded in Oakland. Panthers have Hunters Point in their DNA.

On Jan. 20, 1995, "300 Blacks form ring around City Hall" topped the front page describing Black construction contractors and workers protesting the Black share of only 3/10 of 1 percent of a contract to rehabilitate San Francisco City Hall. And




my editorial on March 17, 1995, "Run Willie run," was the first to urge Willie Brown to run for mayor.

Oldtimers are only now replacing shame with pride when they recall how, as teenagers, they scared the powers that be enough to put "Hunters Point Riot" in headlines around the world. Nineteen days later, on Oct. 15, 1966, the Black Panther Party was founded in Oakland. Panthers have Hunters Point in their DNA.

The photo I took of a sea of Black people at the Million Man March that graces the front page on Oct. 20, 1995, is the best picture of the march she's ever seen, according to my wife. And inside that issue is a sports section captained by that legend of Black sports writers Huel Washington, who stayed with the Bay View for several years.

On Feb. 16, 1996, Huel penned "Community fed up with police brutality," reporting newly appointed Black Police Chief Earl Sanders saying, "When I take off this uniform, I know I'm a candidate to be just another nigger beat up by the police." On the same front page, Ross Mirkarimi penned "Black men jailed at eight times the rate of whites."

 "Protesters condemn prison 'slavery'" was the top headline on April 5, 1996, a story by legendary journalist Kevin Weston on a rally outside California Department of Corrections headquarters in Sacramento that was organized by Martin Reed of Hunters Point from inside San Quentin Prison and drew a crowd of 150 in the driving rain. By then, the New Bayview had been renamed San Francisco Bay View with a rising sun masthead designed by artist Keith Lewis.




Hard Bricks comic strip (later J-Cat and Bootzilla) was written and drawn by Ronnie Goodman, then a prisoner himself in San Quentin and now the most famous homeless artist in San Francisco, who's been featured on the front page of the Chronicle and whose work is a popular feature of many exhibits. The Bay View is proud of all the people who've written or been written about in our paper over the years and have gone on to higher heights.

With a new push by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency to take control of Bayview Hunters Point, Marie Harrison, by then a fixture on the back page, wrote on June 7, 1996, "Remember the Fillmore. Remember South Park. Bayview Hunters Point is our final frontier in San Francisco. Here is where we make our

stand. So hold the line. Refuse to be removed, replaced and dealt a slow death. Say No to the power plant and Yes to toxic cleanup. Save yourself and your neighborhood."

That week the Board of Supervisors unanimously defeated a proposal for a new power plant we'd fought for a year – the fight revealing that we in Bayview Hunters Point were drowning in toxic soup, some of the worst environmentally racist conditions in the country that we've been fighting ever since.

"Prison officials stage 'gladiator fights,'" reported on the Nov. 1, 1996, front page, updated a story we broke that September and the Chronicle finally picked up on Oct. 28. Our reporter was prisoner and Black Panther veteran Warren Wells, who wrote: "When you hear about Black and Mexican prisoners fighting in here, know that it is the state playing games, pitting us against each other so they can ask the public for more funds to build more prisons."

 "S.F. Bay View named national 'Black Newspaper of the Year'" blared the banner headline in the July 18, 1997, paper. The honor was presented to us by the National Black Chamber of Commerce at their 1997 convention in Denver. Among the Bay View's many other awards are the Society of Professional Journalists' Excellence in Journalism Award in 1996 and their Freedom of Information Award in 2004, and we were named Best of the Bay by the great Bay Guardian in 1997 and 2009.

The front page of that paper also reports on the start of the landmark Shumate v. Wilson trial filed by prison health care hero Charisse Shumate, alleging gross medical neglect and abuse, a constant Bay View theme for decades.

Inside that paper in the Culture Currents section is a review by Wanda Sabir, soon to become our arts editor and still the only journalist covering the incredibly vibrant Bay Area Black arts scene. Her column took the name Wanda's Picks on July 14, 1999. She's also a strong advocate for prisoners and a board member of the California Coalition for Women Prisoners.

The back page is graced with the J-Cat and Bootzilla comic strip that ran for years, artist Ronnie Goodman mailing a new strip from inside San Quentin twice a month.



Inside the July 18, 1997, Bay View, Ronnie Goodman had renamed his comic strip J-Cat and Bootzilla, a pair of prisoners on an island that looked a lot like Alcatraz who were incessantly trying to escape. Here, they've made it out for a while, but they'll be back.

On Feb. 4, 1998, we took a deep breath and dared to begin publishing the Bay View every week instead of the twice a month schedule of our first six years. From the beginning, we've never had the funds to hire a real staff, though countless great writers have generously shared their work with our readers. Today, we'd love to resume printing the paper weekly, which we had to suspend in 2008, when we lost everything in a foreclosure.

But even more critical is to make plans for the Bay View to live on beyond Mary and me. I'm 83 and she's 76, and the pace of publishing stories daily on our website and monthly in print is getting harder and harder to maintain. We'd love to hear from anyone with ideas for making the Bay View sustainable.

On Sept. 5, 1997, the Bay View graduated from a tabloid to a big broadsheet newspaper with the banner headline, "10,000 cross Golden Gate Bridge" to overturn anti-affirmative action Proposition 209. Black economic power was – and still is – under massive attack.

I've always preached that winning Black economic power is the solution to most of the other plagues on the Black community, and as a lifelong contractor, licensed since 1967, I've fought for Blacks – we who built this country – to perform a major share of public construction work. When provided by Black contractors, construction jobs give a better-than-living-wage income to our people regardless of their academic and criminal records.

"Hunters Point power plant will shut down" was the banner headline on July 15, 1998, over a story written by Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr. announcing, "In recognition of the City's commitment to the long-term revitalization of the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood, the City and Pacific Gas and Electric Co. have reached an unprecedented agreement whereby the 69-year-old Hunters Point will be permanently closed."

Oh, how we had fought that nasty plant, the oldest in the state, which blanketed the north side of Hunters Point Hill with toxins that had children up all night with



nosebleeds and rashes. My editorial that week was headlined “Confirmation of our power.”

But even more critical is to make plans for the Bay View to live on beyond Mary and me. I’m 83 and she’s 76, and the pace of publishing stories daily on our website and monthly in print is getting harder and harder to maintain. We’d love to hear from anyone with ideas for making the Bay View sustainable.

It was about this time that Kevin Weston, revolutionary journalist and piper to a generation of radical mediamakers, whose beautiful life was taken by leukemia last year, began filling one or two of the Bay View’s cultural pages each week with wild commentary, poems and graphics he called Anti-Verses. I’m proud of all the Bay View’s cultural coverage and promotion of brilliant Black talent and trends.

The banner headline “Terror at the Airport” on Sept. 2, 1998, topped a picture of the hangman’s noose found in the jobsite trailer of my company, Liberty Builders, that signaled the lockout of Blacks from construction in San Francisco – a lockout that continues to this day. As head of the African American Contractors of San Francisco, I’d worked with the Willie Brown administration to ensure the participation of Blacks and other contractors of color on the multi-billion dollar airport expansion, and most of our members had won multi-million-dollar contracts, the largest of their careers.

However, as they would arrive with their crews to begin work, they were greeted with death threats, leaving Liberty Builders the only Black contractor at SFO and the target of some of the craziest harassment I’d ever seen. But my all-Black crew braved personal life-threatening attacks and topped the five-story building off early, though work had been several months behind schedule when we started.

The noose was our reward, sparking a firestorm of Black protest, led by then San Francisco NAACP President Alex Pitcher, who had fought lynching as a young civil rights attorney in Louisiana. In succeeding weeks, ace reporter Lee Hubbard chronicled Pitcher’s success in persuading the FBI to investigate and the Board of Supervisors to hold hearings. “Discrimination is alive, kicking and doing well, even in the so-called City of St. Francis,” said then Supervisor Amos Brown, now head of the SF NAACP. Media Alliance gave us an award for the series. ▶

"The noose and the newspaper," my editorial on Oct. 14, 1998, began: "The tactics being used by the San Francisco International Airport, the Human Rights Commission and large general contractors – the good ol' boys club – to keep the construction industry segregated are also threatening to put the San Francisco Bay View newspaper out of business. They see the Bay View's role in informing, uniting and championing the rights of African Americans to public contracts and jobs as an attack on their supremacy, and they want the paper silenced.

"From the time we bought the paper in 1992 my construction company, Liberty Builders, substantially subsidized the Bay View because the paper didn't make enough money from advertising to cover the costs of printing and distribution. But Hensel Phelps Construction Co., the folks who brought us the noose, put a stop to that. For the past 18 months that Liberty Builders worked as their concrete subcontractor at the airport, Hensel Phelps never paid us a single progress payment."

But ultimately, as reported by Brother Jahahara on Nov. 25, 1998, the prime contractor, Hensel Phelps, which had hung the noose in Liberty Builders' trailer, was cleared of discrimination charges by the city's Human Rights Commission, and SFPD wouldn't even call it a hate crime. Showing Blacks under attack on the justice front as well as the economic front, another front page headline that week read, "Protests increase as death warrant looms: 'All out to free Mumia Abu-Jamal.'"

Happier news was in the March 3, 1999, banner headline: "Read your Bay View on the world wide web: www.sfbayview.com." That website was created and the story written by our daughter, Kenya Ratcliff. The Bay View was one of the first newspapers on the internet. We were already there when Google came along, and when you search for a topic we've covered, you'll often find the Bay View's story ranked up there with stories from the New York Times and the Washington Post.

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The March 10, 1999, front page asked “Who needs a Master?” decrying San Francisco’s decision to give the Hunters Point Shipyard, which had been undergoing toxic cleanup all that decade, to a “master developer.” Sure enough, Lennar, the “master” they chose, has been a curse on this community.

Another headline that week, “North Beach housing residents fight removal” was part of our constant coverage during that decade of public and subsidized housing residents’ struggle to keep – and to own – their own homes and community, while government at every level was moving to privatize and destroy them. A federal law allowing residents to organize, gradually take over management and eventually own their development as a co-op was carried further toward victory in San Francisco than in most other parts of the country, and the brutal way it was put down intensified the turf wars that have plagued the Black community ever since.

On March 17, 1999, the banner headline, “98% of City contracts go to out-of-town white male-owned firms,” condemned San Francisco’s economic racism that, along with police occupation and gentrification, has pushed the Black population down to near 3 percent today. “Communities hit by crack cocaine epidemic sue CIA” on the same March 17, 1999, front page was part of our coverage of the U.S. government’s campaign to rid itself of Black power.



Warren Wells, a leading member of the Black Panther Party who came from Hunters Point, was a political prisoner when he wrote many astute reports for the Bay View on the horrors of California prisons, including the Corcoran gladiator fights. From our first issue, we dropped papers for people locked up in San Francisco County Jail, and they introduced the paper to state prisons when they were convicted and sent there. It was courageous writers in California prisons who began to use the Bay View to reveal the terrible oppression. Today it remains the only paper in the country widely distributed both inside and outside prisons, facilitating dialog, planning and organizing nationwide to win real justice.

A photo of youths, fists raised, headlined “Up in arms over Mumia, Prop 21 and Amadou,” graced the March 1, 2000, front page – evidence of the rising power of young people, enraged at Prop 21 that enables California to condemn children to adult prisons. Bay View readers today know that many of those children were nurtured by older prisoners to become some of the keenest minds bent on abolishing prison in the long term and reforming it meanwhile.

“Toxic fire at HP Shipyard” bellowed the banner headline on Sept. 13, 2000. Federal law requires that the process of closing a military base, cleaning up the

toxic mess left behind and developing the land must, first and foremost, benefit the people who live around the base. Since the people surrounding the Hunters Point Shipyard are poor and Black, the Navy and the City see the current residents not as beneficiaries but as obstacles to the upscale development they prefer.

So when multicolored flames and smoke billowed from the Shipyard's largest landfill, one of the most toxic landfills in the U.S., full of radioactive and chemical toxins, the Navy and the City tried to hush the media, but the Bay View wouldn't hush. When the fire flared again in July 2001, Ahimsa Porter Sumchai, M.D., who would soon be named the Bay View's health and environmental science editor, had begun to shake up the political establishment with her rare combination of medical, scientific and journalistic skills infused with courage.

"20,000 gone: Stop the exodus" reports "Black population in SF drops 23% since 1990" on the April 11, 2001, front page. "Prop P becomes official City policy" headlines my editorial on Aug. 15, 2001, reporting that 87 percent of San Francisco voters supported prohibiting development of the Shipyard until it is thoroughly clean. Lennar's current development is moving residents onto a Shipyard that is nowhere close to clean.

"Idriss Stelley supporters demand end to cover-up," also on that front page, updates the story we broke on June 20, 2001, that set the Bay Area on course to be a major national innovator in response to police terror. From the moment her son and only child, Idriss Stelley, was executed by SFPD, Mesha Irizarry has fought relentlessly for justice for all the victims and their families.

"No police in our schools!" marks the first front page story by JR Valrey, now known as the people's minister of information, in the June 27, 2001, Bay View. He quotes Askari X in "Ward of the State": "The police ain't nothing but another organized oppressive army occupying our community."

On Oct. 17, 2001, is a theme initially struck on our very first front page nearly a decade earlier, "3rd Street rail must be built for us by us." Devastated by the mass murder of Black construction expertise during the SFO debacle in 1998, however, nearly all Black contractors were out of business, so Black workers were also locked out. While I had always seen the construction of Third Street light rail as an economic opportunity for Bayview Hunters Point – "Muni is our mitigation"

headlined my editorial on Jan. 9, 2002 – City Hall used it as a means to speed BVHP's gentrification.

The banner headline on Jan. 16, 2002, "Muni's Third St. work privatized," has a series of check marks next to "No resident hire, no affirmative action, no prevailing wage, no union, no competitive bidding, no community notification whatsoever – nothing but parking tickets, lost business, dust, noise – no jobs but flagging for a non-union contractor."

Devastated by the mass murder of Black construction expertise during the SFO debacle in 1998, however, nearly all Black contractors were out of business, so Black workers were also locked out.

We later learned that Muni, San Francisco's public transit system, had chosen not to do for Third Street's then mostly Black businesses what it had done in every other commercial corridor torn up by major construction and apply for available federal funds to keep those businesses alive when few customers could reach them. That decision killed many Black businesses, the bedrock of Black economic power.

One of our all-time most powerful front pages came out on Feb. 6, 2002, with the banner headline, "Police to parents whose children they were beating: 'As long as you people are here, we will act like this.'" I called my editorial "Gentrification by terror" when, on Martin Luther King Day up on Kiska Road families were relaxing after a community barbeque and police attacked 12-14-year-old children peacefully sitting in a car listening to music.

I wrote: "What I believe (the cop quoted in the headline) meant was, 'We are carrying out orders to beat you and your children under color of law whenever we please. We are telling you, take a Section 8 certificate and get yourself and your family the hell out of here, because the big greedy developers want your space, your view, your land on the sunny side of San Francisco, to make money for themselves – and they don't care about you.'"

That issue, marking my 10th anniversary as publisher, featured the photos of 28 contributing writers, many still writing. I extend my deepest gratitude to all the writers who have blessed us with their work all these years. Another striking

front page was our first in color, dated June 5, 2002. The featured story, about “Mrs. Sloan, who washed dishes for 30 years to buy four homes for her extended family, loses them to county conservator,” was written by Lisa Gray-Garcia, lovingly known as Tiny of the Poor News Network, a treasured companion in our efforts to liberate journalism.

On June 26, 2002, Terone Ward’s glorious new masthead made its debut – bright green and sun-splashed, the same one we still use. Terone’s arrival as webmaster and layout designer ushered in a new era that saw the Bay View increasingly written by and for our youth. Only 19 then, Terone was already the father of two adorable little boys, who often came to work with him.

JR, too, worked out of the Bay View “newsroom,” the living room of our little flat that was often crowded with young folks – among them Apollonia Jordan, only a teenager when she started writing and taking photos for the Bay View, who’s now back covering the SFPD execution of Mario Woods.

The Oct. 2, 2002, front page was topped with JR’s review of “Bay View Appreciation Night,” celebrating my 70th birthday at D’wayne Wiggins’ Jahva House in Oakland with music by D’wayne and Askari X. At the bottom of the front page, JR and Terone collaborated on a colorful panel with a monthly theme, a tradition we continue today.

This history of the Bay View will also be continued. I hope you’ve enjoyed walking down memory lane with me and that you’ll be inspired to join me and the Bay View in seeking the justice and enlightenment to build a better world.

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Source: San Francisco Bay View

AUTHOR

JM





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Bay View turns 40! Part 2

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April 20, 2017

Editorial by Bay View publisher Dr. Willie Ratcliff

Now, as the San Francisco Bay View newspaper's 40th birthday year comes to a close, is the time to bring up to date the historical sketch of our paper that I began with Part 1 in the January paper. Piles of old papers rest on my desk, waiting to be read once again – a banquet of stories and pictures of our lives, our hopes, our goals. Let me let you taste the flavor of the freedom we continue to fight for in the age of Trump.

Picking up where Part 1 left off, the banner headline in the Oct. 16, 2002, Bay View blared, "POLICE ATTACK STUDENTS," followed by the subhead, "60 baton-wielding police hit, traumatize Thurgood Marshall students." A small dust-up over a girl between a couple of boys separated by a petite woman teacher was escalated into a police riot when 60 officers invaded the school without warning, blocking the entrances at both ends of the school, bottling over a thousand students in the main hall after someone had pulled the fire alarm that sent them out of their classrooms into the hallway.



There they were all terrorized, and the darker skinned Black, Samoan and Latino students selectively beaten with batons. “They called hella officers and they started hemming everybody up that was around. They started hitting people with billy clubs (even though) we didn’t do nothing. ... (I)t was about 60 officers, and the whole school started fighting back,” said a student quoted by JR.

One teacher tried to protect the students. Police “told Mr. Peebles to leave or they’ll take him to jail. He said that he didn’t care, left, went upstairs, got a camera, and started videotaping all the police beating up the kids. ... After that, the cops took the videotape, handcuffed (Mr. Peebles) and took him to jail. He was the only teacher arrested.” A dozen students, all Black, were also arrested.

Reportedly, during a showdown in the mayor’s office months later, Mayor Willie Brown, SFPD Chief Earl Sanders and SFUSD Superintendent Arlene Ackerman – all of them Black – told those arrested the charges would be dropped only if they promised not to sue. Ironically, Thurgood Marshall is a college prep school then sending 92 percent of its graduates to college, a treasured resource in resource-starved Bayview Hunters Point, yet what are Black students being taught?



“67% of SF homeless are from BVHP” is the banner headline on Oct. 30, 2002. “While 20,000 Black folks lost their homes and left the City,” I wrote in an editorial, “another nearly 10,000 – from Bayview Hunters Point alone – lost their homes yet stayed in the City, homeless. ... In the last handful of years, in a dramatic transformation, the complexion of San Francisco’s homeless population has turned Black.” Previously, unhoused Black folks were taken in by someone and never seen on the streets, but HUD rules threatening to evict families if they sheltered anyone not on the lease put an end to that compassionate tradition.

Another symptom of Black loss can be seen in comparing the Bay View’s Black Pockets Business Directory in 2002, when it took two thirds of a page, listing 57 Black businesses and professionals, with the 2016 directory, which has shrunk to less than half that, with only 24 businesses listed. Today, from all sides of the Black community, comes the prescription for our way forward: “Keep your money circulating in your community. Patronize Black businesses. Keep your money in Black pockets,” the message we publish in every paper.

To thrive, the Black economy requires – and fosters – Black unity, and so does Black culture. The main photo on Nov. 20, 2002, is of a drummer at San Francisco’s Ocean Beach summoning “hundreds of men, women and children to honor the ancestors and express the pain of a continuing Black Holocaust”: Maafa is the annual commemoration of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the Middle Passage and their legacy, founded by Bay View arts editor Wanda Sabir and now in its 21st year.

“It was still dark,” she wrote about Maafa 2002, “so after we’d parked, unloaded and greeted other arrivals nearby, we all walked down the stairs onto the sand, where candlelight and roaring fires danced to drum voices. It was, as usual, a beautifully welcoming sight – Black people gliding along the terrain, spirits mingling with the ghosts of ancestors present that morning, the guests of honor.”

“350,000 march against war and racism” declared the banner headline on Jan. 22, 2003, when JR reported I told the multitude from the steps of City Hall: “The Black community has been engaged in war ever since we left the shores of Africa in chains over four centuries ago. So if the country is going to start a true anti-war movement, then this anti-war movement needs to begin by addressing the war that the American government and big business via the police are waging on Black communities right here. Then we can span the world.” It was the largest demonstration in San Francisco history.

“Locked out of 3rd St. rail work” headlined my editorial on June 18, 2003, when Muni, having locked out the people of Bayview Hunters Point from the \$600 million T-train light rail project except for an occasional flagger, reneged on a promise to set aside construction of the \$125 million light rail maintenance barn. Muni had promised that they “would work with Black contractors, truckers and workers on a plan that would feature on-the-job training in all trades for our youth and for everyone who wants to work hard and earn a good living.”

Muni had lied to the community at meetings that drew crowds as large as a thousand BVHP residents, and I wanted to encourage people not to give up. “We have been quiet too long,” I concluded. “From this day forward, we will organize and demand our right to work and to contract, to have our votes counted, to live in a clean environment, to have a Black bank and a thriving Black shopping corridor and to end the police occupation of our community.” Those remain our goals.

A new feature, “Behind Enemy Lines” with its familiar gunshot-pocked masthead designed by brilliant young graphic artist Terone Ward, appears in the Aug. 6, 2003, Bay View over a story headlined, “Here, a dreadlock Rasta must be punished.” Ras Mario Canody writes: “A Rasta’s faith does not allow the cutting of our hair, so therefore I get only 10 hours of yard per week, no phone calls, no dayroom and no jobs or school,” all for being out of compliance with grooming regulations.

“But as I walk in the land of Babylon, I came across your paper and felt as if a wind of truth blew in and washed me in a bright light. I am sending you these stamps and hoping that you put me on your mailing list. I want to get your insight on a regular basis.”

In “Transition of Dr. Yusuf Bey,” Brother Jahahara Amen-Ra Alkebulan-Maat wrote: “Beginning in the late 1960s, his family built businesses like the Your Black Muslim Bakery chain of health-conscious restaurants and products throughout Oakland and the Bay Area, Your Black Muslim Cleaners, Your Black Muslim Grocery, Universal Security, E.M. (Elijah Muhammad) Health Services and other businesses that employ and provide opportunities to hundreds of poor, unemployed, recently released prisoners and drug-addicted men and women in our communities.”

Gracing the back page of the Nov. 5, 2003, Bay View are a flock of photos – no stories, just pictures and captions – a tradition ever since. One of the photos shows three tired Black firefighters trudging back to camp. “The unsung heroes – largely ignored by the major media – who saved California from the worst wildfires ever are prisoners. ... ‘We save million-dollar homes for a dollar an hour,’ said prisoner firefighter Ricky Frank, 33, who’s serving a 10-year sentence.”

In the middle of the front page of the Dec. 17, 2003, Bay View is a big portrait of beloved journalist Chauncey Bailey, illustrating “KBLK: Media trailblazer Chauncey Bailey launches new Black

television network” by JR. As he struggled to keep Soul Beat Television alive, he was also seizing an opportunity to found KBLK, pronounced K-Black. Black media must always fight for its place in the sun.

Black August was, as in years before and since, the theme of the page 1 panel on Aug. 18, 2004. It features “Soledad Brother: Memories of Comrade George” by revolutionary journalist and Black Panther veteran Kiilu Nyasha and “Special assignment: George Jackson’s funeral, August 1971” by Black Panther historian and archivist Billy X.

George Jackson’s name strikes terror in the hearts of prison officials in California. Many prisoners were tortured for decades in solitary confinement for possessing any mention of his name, including the many mentions in the Bay View. Nevertheless, prisoners have always asked us not to self-censor, vowing to defend the truth even in the face of torture.

The banner headline, “Cammerin Boyd murdered by SFPD in the Fillmore,” tops the May 12, 2004, Bay View. The reporter, Bay View intern and SF State journalism student Ebony Sinnamon-Johnson, had arrived on the scene shortly after Boyd’s horrendous murder. Boyd struggled to obey the police order to get out of his car, but he had two prosthetic legs and was murdered in front of a crowd for not obeying quickly enough. Media coverage of police murders was rarely seen in those days, except in the Bay View.



“Shipyard still unfit for human habitation” blares the banner

headline on Oct. 20, 2004, on the eve of the “dirty” transfer of Parcel A of the Hunters Point Shipyard from the Navy to the City and then to mega-developer Lennar, City Hall’s chosen “master developer” of the Shipyard. The people of Bayview Hunters Point, under the leadership of Minister Christopher Muhammad, had already been meeting every week for years trying to stop development until the Navy had completely cleaned the Shipyard of radiation and chemical toxins, and the environmental justice movement was covered by extraordinary journalist, scientist, researcher and medical doctor Ahimsa Porter Sumchai, M.D., whose father had died from working at the Shipyard.

The Bay Views published in the spring and summer of 2005 cover vast reaches of the African Diaspora. “Police in Haiti continue the killing” and many more headlines tell of the bloodbath and heroic fightback following the 2004 coup that exiled the people’s president, Jean Bertrand Aristide. “Protest in Vieques: The Navy is ‘bombing’ again” updates the struggle of a small Puerto Rican island with one of the prettiest white sand beaches in the Caribbean to stop the Navy from using it as a bombing range, poisoning the small population.

In “Nigerians challenge big oil companies over gas emissions,” we learn that not only has Big Oil destroyed the environment and the economy of the Niger Delta, but the people’s health as well by allowing the toxic gas emitted during oil production to burn off, the flares lighting the sky like

daylight all day and night. “Fallujah: an unnatural disaster” strays outside the African Diaspora to tell the story that involved many Blacks in uniform witnessing U.S. war crimes that are coming back to haunt us today.

The Aug. 31, 2005, Bay View carries our first story on Katrina, “Hurricane Katrina: Help the poor endure,” an appeal by Marc Morial for support for the thousands of New Orleanians packed into the Superdome. Soon we were to learn that the desperation in the Superdome was just the beginning of one of the worst deliberate disasters in history.



The Bay View, with the help of CC Campbell-Rock, a New Orleans journalist who came to the Bay and wrote and gathered stories every week, produced Katrina coverage so thorough it was judged second only to that of the New Orleans Times-Picayune. We called our coverage “New Orleans: Gentrification by Genocide.”

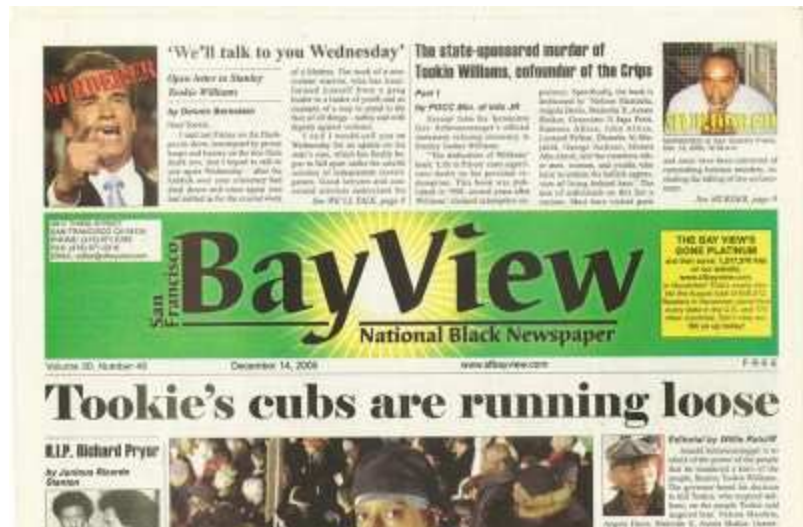
Just two days after the storm hit, my wife Mary was able to reach our old friend Malik Rahim, who had moved back home to New Orleans after organizing public housing tenants here in San Francisco for a decade. Malik dictated the terrifying story of

the genocide, “[This is criminal](#),” to Mary over the phone in their first conversation, then immediately founded Common Ground that brought tens of thousands of volunteers to New Orleans, many of them learning of the need through the Bay View.

“Tookie’s cubs are running loose” is the banner headline over my editorial in the Dec. 14, 2005, Bay View, and Minister of Information JR told the story in “The state-sponsored murder of Tookie Williams, co-founder of the Crips.” Tookie was beloved for his books for youngsters on his transformation – he called it redemption – that move them to redeem themselves.

Black youth had come in droves to the largest vigil ever at San Quentin hoping to stop his execution. But Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who knew Tookie personally from when they were both body builders and had asked Tookie to appear in one of his films, made the cold blooded decision to condemn him to a slow, agonizing death.

The banner headline on June 7, 2006, “Sign the petition to save Bayview Hunters Point,” refers to



the referendum we initiated with allies to reverse the Board of Supervisors' approval of a plan to



put Bayview Hunters Point – the whole neighborhood of some 30,000 people – under the jurisdiction of the dreaded Redevelopment Agency, the same agency that bulldozed the Fillmore, known in the '50s and '60s as Harlem of the West, but feared by whites for its Black power. With that power relocated to Bayview Hunters Point, our hood was assigned the same fate, but we weren't having it!

Ultimately, with support of San Franciscans citywide who admired the courage of Blacks fighting from the bottom up, we gathered over 33,000 signatures, far more than needed, only to have the referendum quashed by City Attorney Dennis Herrera, who declared we should have attached a telephone book-size package of all the related proceedings to the petition, even though his office had approved our petition initially.

In the summer of 2006, a little yellow notice appeared on the Bay View masthead saying: “The Bay View’s website, www.sfbayview.com, which had been getting over 2 million hits a month, was attacked and badly hacked. It is under reconstruction and will return, better than ever, hopefully next week” and signed by Webmaster Terone Ward. Someone or something very powerful hacked the site, forever destroying some 10,000 stories. Though countless experts tried to help, the site was never resurrected and, in 2008, volunteers created a new site, the one we use now, still at sfbayview.com.

City Hall’s war against Black San Franciscans resounds in the two front page stories above the fold on Oct. 18, 2006, “Enough Is Enough rally a rare show of Black community force” by KPOO Radio News Director Harrison Chastang and “Alert! Gang injunction: 300 Black men targeted,” the banner headline over a story by Damone Hale, Esq., along with a big picture of the Black Panther Party’s 40th anniversary. The rally, organized by Minister Christopher Muhammad and me, drew an enormous crowd, girding the community to fight the gang injunctions, a terrible idea that migrated from Los Angeles.

“Lennar divides Hunters Point with apartheid wall” is the banner headline on March 21, 2007. The plan had never been announced, but finally we figured out that Lennar’s massive earthmoving project to remove 35 feet of Hunters Point Hill at the Shipyard boundary was intended to create a large grade separation between the Black poor folks who’d lived on the hill for generations and the white rich folks Lennar hoped would buy its condos. Hoping to drive Blacks off the hill, Lennar made no effort to suppress the toxic dust clouds that poisoned the community for years.

Aug. 8, 2007, was the day of Chauncey Bailey’s funeral, and the Bay View of that date carried the story by JR. The Black community had been astounded to hear of Chauncey’s murder the previous week at 7:20 a.m. as he walked to work in downtown Oakland; he was then editor of the Oakland Post after many years as one of the Bay’s tiny handful of Black journalists in mainstream media.

No one could imagine why anyone would want to kill Chauncey. Though he sometimes reported controversial stories, he was loved by everybody. We at the Bay View immediately suspected OPD, which Chauncey had told his publisher, Paul Cobb, he was investigating. But the police threw suspicion on Your Black Muslim Bakery and the young son of founder Yusuf Bey, who took the reins after his father died. Yusuf Bey IV was ultimately convicted. A mainstream media collaboration called The Chauncey Bailey project, which had immediately accepted the police line, severely chastised the Bay View for daring to suspect the police.

The Aug. 15, 2007, Bay View's front page headlines show the range of the paper's reach: "Forming a 'Human Levee for Human Rights' in New Orleans"; "In loving memory of 'Mr. Karl' Paige" by Apollonia Jordan about the beloved founder of the Quesada Gardens a block from the Bay View; the banner headline, "Chronicle omits SF mayor's strongest challenger, Dr. Ahimsa Sumchai," about our own health and environmental science editor, who has long been deeply involved in San Francisco politics and ran a very influential campaign against Mayor Willie Brown's heir apparent, the rich, white Gavin Newsom; "Bayview Hunters Point needs Malcolm and the Panthers" by Ebony Colbert, a very insightful young writer who served as managing editor for the Bay View until we ran out of money to pay her; "Officials allow dioxin to poison Black town"; "Wrongful mass eviction case settled by Oakland Housing Authority" by our favorite writer on low-income housing, Lynda Carson; "Fighting for the right to learn: The public education experiment in New Orleans two years after Katrina" by renowned human rights attorney Bill Quigley; "The unwarranted move of Imam Jamil Al-Amin to Supermax" by Minister of Information JR about the transfer of the former H. Rap Brown to the dreaded "Guantanamo of the Rockies" at Florence, Colorado; and "August 8th – again" by our hero, Mumia Abu-Jamal, about the terrible day in 1978 when police launched a major assault on MOVE in West Philly and the survivors of the MOVE 9, who remain in prison for the death of a cop who was killed by friendly fire.

Mumia is the liberation journalist who wrote for The Black Panther newspaper from age 15 and whose commentaries have been the Bay View's moral compass for decades. For 32 years, he wrote from the solitary confinement of Death Row, wrongly convicted of killing a Philly cop. In 2012, he was resented to life without parole and in 2015 nearly died from undiagnosed Hepatitis C. Through it all, his rare combination of courage and kindness have made him the world's best known and loved political prisoner and proven that media, too often a purveyor of lies and hate, can be a beacon of truth and love.



"Lennar built homes on land littered with live bombs" is the banner headline on Nov. 21, 2007, over my editorial that begins: "I thought the most horrifying story about Lennar's corrupt construction practices was the subdivision it built on its own dump full of rubber tires in Florida. Now a new Florida debacle beats that one." A 23-pound unexploded fragmentation bomb had been found just under the surface in a Lennar subdivision under construction. Neither bombs nor radiation nor toxic contamination stop Lennar from profiting off homebuyers' misery, whether in Florida or Hunters Point.

The July 2, 2008, Bay View is the last weekly paper we published. I remember my wife, Mary, looking up at me suddenly from her work on the following week's paper and saying, "That's it. We're flat out of money." We'd been approved for refinancing the building we still live in but no longer

own. A friend with slightly better credit had helped us buy it in 1998 after the noose at the airport had shut down Liberty Builders, my construction business.

It had been a crack house, deteriorated and cheap, but I was able to restore it to its early 20th century glory; a Black painter friend gave it a beautiful coat of green paint with gold trim, and we considered it the prettiest building on Third Street. But the loan approval evaporated when the appraisal came in lower than expected. Why? It was summer of 2008, when the mortgage crash few knew was coming hit this hood and all hoods like a hurricane, blowing away generations of Black wealth.

First, while we struggled to survive and keep a roof over the Bay View's head, we concentrated on a new website, so the Bay View could remain viable online while we worked on finding the money to resume printing. A friend of a friend recruited Brendan Nee to build the website we use today – for free, a sample of his work to draw clients to his new web design business. And supporters donated enough for us to print a paper for November, on the eve of Obama's historic election.

The December 2008 Bay View – we've been able to finance printing only once a month since the foreclosure – welcomed Kambale Musavuli, a young Congolese writer with Friends of the Congo, who encouraged us to cover his country and the African Great Lakes region to help stop the genocidal resource plundering by foreigners that had taken 6 million lives already. His story: "[Congo in crisis: What President Obama can do to right past wrongs in U.S. policy.](#)"

And Dr. Sumchai wrote "[Polluter pays! Air District fines Lennar \\$515,000 for poisoning the community with its toxic dust from the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.](#)"

The banner headline in February 2009, "[Black Power wins a Black president and a white cop charged with murder](#)" – the latter referring to BART cop Johannes Mehserle for his murder of Oscar Grant Jan. 1, 2009, on a BART platform. Oakland exploded – and stayed in the streets for years – showing the country that persistence gets action, a lesson taken to heart in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014. Probably in retaliation for his years of reporting police terrorism – I think he coined the term – JR was charged with arson of a trash can; it took a year in court to beat the ridiculous rap. His treasured camera was seized and never returned.

March 21, 2009, was payback time. "[Police 2, Oakland residents 4](#)" was the headline over JR's report in the April 2009 Bay View on the "routine" traffic stop of 26-year-old Lovelle Mixon that led to the deaths that day of Lovelle and four Oakland cops. At a rare march, rally and vigil at 74th and MacArthur in East Oakland on March 25, protesters, mostly Lovelle's neighbors, friends and family, connected the dots from the OPD murder of Lil Bobby Hutton in 1968 to the police murders of Oscar Grant and Lovelle Mixon. The banner headline over that photo and my editorial is "[If you want peace, fight for justice.](#)"



“[NO BLACKS WORKING](#)” blares the banner headline in December 2009 over a column, the first of a series, by our dear friend Joseph Debro, founder of the National Association of Minority Contractors. Joe was determined to stop the lockout of Blacks from construction. He died trying. We’re still trying.

Haiti was hit on Jan. 12, 2010, by a catastrophic earthquake that killed at least 300,000 people, and the February 2010 Bay View is full of stories about it. Thousands still live in tents since the disaster capitalists, most notably the Clintons, used the calamity to push the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere deeper into poverty. The U.S. response was as predatory as in New Orleans after Katrina five years earlier, as a story headlined “[New Orleans’ heart is in Haiti](#)” by Jordan Flaherty explains.

“Minister of Information JR recruited a medical-media team to travel to Haiti with 65 boxes of medical supplies to help the people heal and tell their truth,” begins the caption under a front page photo in the March 2010 Bay View. Young Stanford-trained Dr. Chris Zamani led the medical contingent and wrote the story under a picture of him caring for a tent full of Haitians. In “[Haiti: A tale of two disasters](#),” he tells how Haitians have always “refused to be exploited” and “500,000 African slaves organized themselves to defeat Napoleon’s army in a massive successful slave revolt that established the Haitian republic” in 1804. It was that spirit of never-say-die determination and racial pride that had originally led us to cover Haiti, hoping it would inspire our readers here in the U.S.

The Bay View has been blessed with more than our share of awards over the years – and a few other recognitions of our influence in the struggle for justice: the noose at the airport that signaled the lockout of Blacks from construction in 1998, the website hacking that destroyed 10,000 stories in 2006 and, on May 13, 2010, at 1:45 a.m., someone stood on the roof of the bank next door and shot a bullet through our bedroom window of our home-office that was apparently meant not to hurt us but to scare us.



The bullet, which is pictured along with the 2-by-3-inch hole in the window on the front page of the June 2010 Bay View, sailed over my bed, through the open bedroom door and made a dent in the molding of the closet across the hall. Mary was still working behind the next window, easily visible to the shooter, but he chose not to shoot her. We figure only a cop in uniform could be on that roof at that hour and not draw suspicion. But why did he shoot? I think it was intended to scare me into withdrawing from the competition for the contract to build the new Bayview Library and put my community back to work.

Also on that front page is the story, “[Gentrification journalism](#),” written by Minister of Information JR about the cover story in the East Bay Express that labeled him “Agent provocateur.” Gentrification

journalism is “the public relations team that is put in place to make gentrifiers feel safe while making the native population feel as if they no longer are wanted or have a place in the area.” I always see attacks directed at our core crew as really aimed at the Bay View, to shut us up and shut us down. So far we’re still here.

One of many stories by longtime Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney tops that same front page, this one condemning the Israeli murders aboard the Freedom Flotilla to break the siege of Gaza. She herself had sailed there twice, once having her little boat rammed and almost sunk by an Israeli warship and later being jailed for a week in Israel. And she became our friend when we organized a couple of speaking tours for her. Congresswoman McKinney also became our war correspondent when she covered Libya after the terrible Clinton-Obama decision to invade in March 2011.

A big stand-alone picture on the October 2010 front page of me handing a piece of paper to a young clerk at City Hall is explained with this caption: “On Sept. 22, Liberty Builders owner (and Bay View publisher) Willie Ratcliff signed the \$5.1 million contract to build the new Bayview Branch Library and handed it to Rochelle Delavega at the San Francisco Department of Public Works. He must still secure a loan and a bond, huge hurdles for a Black contractor, but he is determined to let nothing stop the people of Bayview Hunters Point from building our library ‘for us by us.’ ‘I didn’t win that contract by myself,’ says Ratcliff. People out here said, ‘Give it to him!’” when asked their opinion by City officials.



“He reports that DPW and Library leaders seem as committed to success as his all-Black team of top construction professionals. While Ratcliff and the City had hoped to start construction this fall, work will start in the spring. That gives jobseekers, experienced workers and potential subcontractors in the community time to GET READY TO GO TO WORK!” The photo was taken by our friend and neighbor, Francisco Da Costa.



Then came the December 2010 headline over a story by Joe Debro, “[San Francisco locks Blacks out from building our own library.](#)” City officials’ apparent enthusiasm had soon waned. It wasn’t the bond, which we got, or the loan that shot down my plans and dreams and those of this job-starved community.



The City snatched back the contract on the flimsy excuse that our insurance agent was one day late in submitting a certificate of insurance that the City already had on file, and they immediately handed it to the second low bidder, a white contractor, for \$2 million more than my realistic bid. That \$2 million

included a bonus for hiring some “minority” subcontractors who had already committed to work within Liberty Builders’ budget. I’m not sure I’ve ever recovered from the low blow of losing the contract, our last hope for girding our community with good jobs to stave off the exodus of Blacks from San Francisco that has reduced us now to a little over 3 percent of the population.

The news on jobs in January 2011 was a little better, announcing, [“Mandatory local hiring becomes law in San Francisco,”](#) a longtime goal of the Bay View. But it hasn’t helped Black workers a lot, because despite a record building boom, contractors, nearly all white, either refuse to hire Blacks or keep them on the payroll only for a short time. Black contractors are the key to Black construction jobs, and most remain out of business or unable to win even the smallest public works contracts.

A photo caption under the banner headline, [“WHY BLACKS ARE NOT WORKING,”](#) in the May 2011

Bay View reads: “Even on stimulus-funded projects that were supposed to create jobs in Black and other disadvantaged communities, Blacks appear to have won few if any jobs or contracts. Check out the next construction site you see. Most likely, even the flaggers will be white.” So much for Obama’s efforts to stimulate the economy for Black folks.

On that same front page are photos and a story about the legendary Rev. Edward Pinkney, the hero of Benton Harbor, Michigan, leading a march against the fascist “emergency managers” foisted on Michigan’s Black cities that resulted in the Flint water atrocity. Rev. Pinkney was convicted on trumped-up charges of voter fraud two years ago and now organizes his comrades inside prison, an extreme punishment for exercising First Amendment rights.

[“California SHU prisoners begin hunger strike July 1”](#) announces the start of what would be a series of three mass hunger strikes fated to reverse the course of prison history by dealing a near death blow in California to solitary confinement, which had buried thousands of “trouble-makers” – teachers, jailhouse lawyers, prisoners who cared about others – for decades in the dreaded SHUs, Security Housing Units.



Starting in July 2011, if not sooner, the Bay View became the go-to paper for prison news, filled with stories by and about our brothers and sisters inside as well as outside prison. Mary calls it the proudest day of her life when we learned that the California Department of Corrections blames the Bay View for the hunger strikes – that is, it was our fault that 6,600 joined the first strike, 12,000 joined the second, and 30,000, according to CDC’s own records, joined the third, in 2013.

Now, prisoners across the nation, stirred by the prisoner-led Free Alabama Movement, are using prison strikes to end slavery – to strike the “slavery clause” that makes an exception for convicts to the 13th Amendment’s abolition of slavery. The price of our commitment to the movement is censorship – banning – of the Bay View by prison wardens and some entire state prison systems. But we can’t stop until slavery is completely abolished!

“Free Fly Benzo, facing 4 years for copwatching” blares the banner headline in December 2011, with the subhead, “[Police critic Fly Benzo keeps catching hell since SFPD murdered Kenneth Harding.](#)” Fly (given name Debray Carpenter, son of Black contractors Claude Carpenter and Barbara Banks), a rapper and straight-A student at City College, had brought on the wrath of SFPD Chief Greg Suhr and was brutally thrown to the ground in Mendell Plaza, Bayview Hunters Point’s main gathering place, by several cops in front of a multitude of witnesses in a clear act of terrorism. The court piled on by sentencing Fly to stay away from Mendell Plaza for three years, and never since has any political activity been allowed there.

To bring this historical sketch through the last five years to the present, I’m going to pick up the pace so as to be able to fit all this in the paper. Most of you have been reading the Bay View a while, so if I leave out anything important to you, please write a letter to the editor so everyone will be reminded.

In September 2012, the banner headline reads, “[Let the community rebuild our schools!](#)” and the subhead, “We want local workers and local contractors on San Francisco School District construction,” over a story by James Richards, who heads ABU – Aboriginal Blackman Unlimited, a group that demands jobs for Black construction workers. ABU had shut down the demolition preceding construction of Willie Brown Middle School in Bayview Hunters Point until local Black workers were hired.

Over the following year, we spoke at meeting after meeting of the School Board persuading them to require local hiring and contracting in upcoming projects. Finally, they passed it – just after all the contracts it would have applied to were awarded, without that requirement.

“[Racial peace in prisons begins Oct. 12.](#)” the banner headline in October 2012, announces the initiation of the Agreement to End Hostilities, written solely by prisoners, organizers of the hunger strikes and other respected leaders, to take from prison officials their most effective weapon: racial strife to keep prisoners divided and conquered. With a few exceptions, usually disputes within racial groups, the agreement has held now for over four years. The solidarity it built has carried thousands of prisoners out of solitary confinement and onto yards where race riots are history.

Beginning a tradition, the top of the December 2012 Bay View front page is all portraits of some of the stars of [our first Black Media Appreciation Night](#), and the main picture shows Kali O’Ray, director of the San Francisco Black Film Festival and now the webmaster for SFBayView.com, handing out one of the awards. What a night!

“Kevin Weston held every heart in the palm of his hand as he told of the prayers of thousands steering him clear of death’s door just a couple of months ago as well as how he came to the Bay View as a

very young writer,” Mary wrote. Tragically, cancer finally won, and at the next Black Media Appreciation Night in September 2014, emotions peaked when his widow, wonder woman Lateefah Simon, with their little daughter Lelah and his mother, Geraldine Singleton, accepted Kevin’s Legacy Award for his legacy of encouraging and mentoring countless young media makers. Lateefah was just elected to the BART Board by a landslide.

With that December 2012 paper, the Bay View had reached the limit of 24 pages that our printer’s press can handle. The paper had gradually been growing from the 12-14 pages we usually printed when the paper came out weekly. Though it costs more to print a bigger paper, the smaller size is nowhere near enough for all the stories burning to be told. Even 24 pages is too small.

“[Hands off the Bay View](#)” headlined a statement in the May 2013 Bay View by the Pelican Bay Human Rights Movement First Amendment Campaign decrying the banning of all the Bay Views but one that year by Pelican Bay State Prison leading up to the largest hunger strike in prison history, set to begin July 8, 2013. It was also one of the longest. Some prisoners went without a bite of food for 60 days.

Strangely, only Pelican Bay – only the prison where the hunger strikes were born and raised – banned the paper that year. The men who wrote most of the stories about it couldn’t read them, but all other California prisoners could, and that’s how the organizers were able to inspire 30,000 of them to join the strike to end indefinite solitary confinement for those already condemned to it and as a threat hanging over everyone else to make them compliant.



The July 2013 banner, “[California prisoners inspire the world](#),” headlines my editorial, saying: “Bay View readers know the strike leaders well and see them as the pride of California daring at the cost of their lives to challenge the government and corporate powers that are impoverishing the people to build a prison nation. We wish them a speedy and total victory.”

The main picture that month is a compilation of photos of San Francisco’s Black leadership protesting the impending eviction of the nation’s oldest Black book store, Marcus Books. And at the top of the front page, “[Mexico demands justice for Malcolm Shabazz](#),” tells of

protests in Mexico City following the terrible murder of a great friend of the Bay View, whose smile, like that of his grandfather, Malcolm X, would light up the room.

“[Tavis Smiley spotlights Black suffering, Black hope](#)” is the banner headline for December 2013 over a transcript of his fiery keynote speech to the San Francisco NAACP Freedom Fund Gala on Nov. 9, 2013, where I was pleased to accept the Frederick Douglass North Star Award from SF NAACP President Dr. Amos Brown.

Several enduring themes are represented on the front page of the April 2014 Bay View. In “[Haiti is not for sale](#),” Ezili Danto, a powerful voice from the heart of Haiti, writes: “The Washington colonists are back in Haiti, re-enslaving. ... Duvalier is back in Haiti. The neo-Duvalierists are back in power. The capitalists own the Haiti government. ... Bill Clinton and all his acolytes are running Haiti.”

In “[SFPD-enforced gentrification killed Alex Nieto](#),” prized media partner Tiny of Poor News Network describes the outrage when four cops emptied their guns into this fine young man of the Mission eating a burrito in the park on his way to work the night shift when white gentrifiers walking their dogs took him for a gang member and called police.

In “[Richmond to have highest minimum wage in California](#),” Malcolm Marshall of the youth-led community newspaper Richmond Pulse writes about the little city that used to be a Chevron “company town” until young Black Latina Jovanka Beckles won election to the City Council and joined colleagues in making Richmond arguably the most progressive city in the nation.

And in “[Will Navy’s radiological survey of homes on Treasure Island mean evicting 2,600 residents?](#)” expert investigative reporter Carol Harvey launches a now two-and-a-half-year-long series advocating for the people of Treasure Island, most low-income and many formerly homeless, who must contend with the same triumvirate we’ve fought for decades in Bayview Hunters Point: the Navy, the City and Lennar.

In September 2014, the world was exploding after “[FERGUSON LIT THE FUSE](#),” our banner headline over my editorial, saying: “With the world watching and their hands in the air, identifying the police as the source of the violence, night after night, young people waded INTO the teargas and stood unflinching with guns in their faces. Oscar Grant’s Uncle Bobby, Cephus Johnson, calls them the most fearless youth of our generation. ... In Ferguson, the community has fused together across age, class and even race and street tribe differences.” JR went to Ferguson and sent back the front page photos – including one of the local Bloods and Crips making peace.



“[Black lives matter! World feels Ferguson, demands justice](#)” is the banner headline in December 2014 over dramatic photos of the first Black Lives Matter show of force in the Bay Area, where you might say Black Lives Matter was born; Alicia Garza, a forever friend of the Bay View, who has written stories and been pictured countless times organizing for POWER, the group she grew up in and later headed, is one of the three founders of Black Lives Matter and the one who coined their name.



In that first demonstration at the West Oakland BART station, the



last stop before San Francisco, young Black people chained together to protesters on the eastbound and westbound BART trains, locked to each train with bike padlocks around their necks, managed to shut down BART for four hours and 28 minutes, the four hours reminding us of the four hours Michael Brown's body lay on a Ferguson street and the 28 minutes for the Black lives taken by police every 28 hours.

[“Beloved political prisoner Hugo ‘Yogi Bear’ Pinell, feared and hated by guards, assassinated after 46](#)

[years in solitary”](#) is the headline over a story by Mary and me. We wrote: “‘This is revenge,’ declared his close friend and fellow Black Panther veteran Kiilu Nyasha on Hard Knock Radio Aug. 13. ‘They hated him as much as George Jackson. They beat him constantly, kept him totally isolated for 46 years – no window, no sunlight – but they could never break him, and that’s why they hated him. The only way he survived was that this man was full of love.’”

Every finger, inside and out, pointed at the guards, who protected the two white assassins while shooting at the young Blacks who rushed to Yogi’s rescue. And the timing was suspicious: Aug. 12 is the anniversary of the announcement of the Agreement to End Hostilities, which Yogi inspired and personified, and guards may have timed the assassination to try and derail settlement of the Ashker case against indefinite solitary confinement by provoking a riot – riots are job insurance for guards – but everybody saw through the ruse: no riot and the settlement was signed.

In the achingly beautiful main picture, Yogi is getting a big hug from his daughter Allegra, who was able to pay him a few visits just before he was killed. The caption reads: “This is ‘the hug’ that rewarded Hugo Pinell after 46 years of being barred from touching a friendly human being. Allegra, who had the pictures taken Aug. 2, says her father asked that if these photos were published, ‘the hug’ should come first. In his last letter to her, written two days before he died, he wrote: ‘I felt uncomfortable posing for our first photo. I was nervous; somehow I mustered up a smile. Then you got almost behind me, put your arms around me and I felt wonderful.’”

After our second Black Media Appreciation Night on Sept. 13, 2014, and our third, on Sept. 12, 2015, portraits of beautiful, joyous people performing and giving and receiving awards are splashed across the top of the front page of the October 2014 and 2015 papers: in 2014, Kev Choice, Melonie and Melorra Green, Fleetwood and Davey D, Wanda and TaSin Sabir, Cecil Brown and JR Valrey, Karen Johnson and Leroy Moore and in 2015, Pierre Labossiere, Leroy Moore, Dr. Ahimsa Sumchai, M1 of dead prez, Alicia Garza, Lateefah Simon Weston, Katera and Kali O’Ray, Mac Mall, Dr. Willie Ratcliff, Phavia Kujichagulia and Emory Douglass – the exciting photography by experts Malaika Kambon, TaSin Sabir and William H. Jones Jr.

The October 2015 Bay View also announced, [“California prisoners win historic gains with settlement against solitary confinement: Agreement reached in Ashker v. Brown ends indeterminate long-term solitary confinement in California.”](#)

2016 roared in with the news reported in the January Bay View of the SFPD execution by firing squad of Mario Woods just a little way up Third Street from the Bay View, and young people rose up much as they had 50 years ago in 1966 when SFPD murdered Matthew “Peanut” Johnson. After they shut down Mayor Lee’s inauguration, after the Black and Brown Frisco 5 held a hunger strike for weeks outside the Mission Police Station, after the Frisco 500 occupied City Hall and finally after SFPD murdered unarmed Jessica Williams-Nelson in Bayview Hunters Point as she sat in a car, we won the forced resignation of Police Chief Greg Suhr, who, as captain of the Bayview Station, had terrorized our hood for years.

Following Part 1 of this sketch of Bay View history in the January 2016, we ran the story of the paper’s first 15 years in a fascinating [interview with founder Muhammad al-Kareem](#) by Minister of Information JR Valrey in February 2016. The March 2016 Bay View once again splashed photos of many of the beautiful people who participated in our 40th anniversary across the top of the front page.

Also in that paper is the good news of the hard-won release of Albert Woodfox, the last member of the Angola 3, from 44 years in solitary confinement and the bad news, reported by Idriss Stelley Foundation co-director Jeremy Miller, of SFPD hiring killer cop Joshua Cabillo after he had murdered 15-year-old Derrick Gaines in South San Francisco and letting him continue his brutality here.

You all know the rest of the 2016 story: an election campaign and results that leave us reeling, the scandal of dozens of Bay Area cops having sex with an underage girl, the 50th anniversaries of the Hunters Point Uprising in September and the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in October, 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick refusing to stand for slavery, the ongoing heroic struggle behind our October banner headline, “Nationwide prison strikes will abolish slavery in US,” the resultant banning of the Bay View by many prison officials across the country, and the great gathering of Natives from across the hemisphere to stand against Big Oil at Standing Rock because “Water is life,” among many other world-changing events.

For the Bay View’s first 40 years – and I can speak especially for the last 25 years since I took over as publisher – we owe undying gratitude to our readers and to the throngs of writers and photographers who’ve filled our pages with their extraordinary work and courage. As the Bay View’s 40th anniversary year comes to a close, we hope to find just the right new editor who will accept the torch that old age hurries us to pass – and to find the funds to pay her or him – so that the paper keeps troubling the waters for decades to come, “until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

Bay View publisher Dr. Willie Ratcliff can be reached at 415-671-0789 or publisher@sfbayview.com.

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Andre Jacobs calls out celebrities: The Bay View is the realest, rawest, richest paper of all; don't let it go broke!

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February 2, 2018

by Andre Jacobs

My tears flowed when I heard the world could be losing the San Francisco Bay View newspaper as a source of life, light and power due to lack of funding. This harrowing news reminded me of a hard lesson I've learned: Any cause, no matter how noble, can and will be lost without money to fuel it.

I've spent thousands of dollars and hours buying and reading newspapers. Hands down, the Bay View produces the realest, rawest, richest content of them all.

It's free to pick up in hoods around the Bay, and prisoners nationwide pay what they can for a subscription by mail, nothing if they can't. Print advertising, which used to pay the production costs, has all but vanished from all print media.

My tears flowed when I heard the world could be losing the San Francisco Bay View newspaper as a source of life, light and power due to lack of funding.

The Bay View is a no nonsense nationalist newspaper intended for anyone with substance. They show the cultural beauty of California but they publish material of international concern, never apologizing, and have literally saved lives through their dedicated work. This is the only paper I know of that doesn't play favorites or censor people's work. They are truly people of the heart and spirit.

There are over 2.3 million people caged in America's prisons, millions more on probation, parole or in transitional housing. Each person represents an American family that has been broken by a system that places zero value on people who don't have enough money to pay for justice and equality.

We understand that life takes over sometimes, but when you forgot to send pictures, write or visit your loved ones in prison – or you were on the block, in Vegas or “popping bottles” – it was the Bay View newspaper letting us know we're never forgotten or without support. You didn't ask them to, but when someone is down for you, you don't have to ask.

What I'd like to see is for everyone reading this to donate at least \$5 to the Bay View newspaper. That's the value of one Burger King meal. I'd like to see every single person with a cell phone or computer, Facebook or Instagram page post this article about the Bay View. Our problems won't ever be solved by sitting around expecting others to take action.

It was the Bay View newspaper letting us know we're never forgotten or without support. You didn't ask them to, but when someone is down for you, you don't have to ask.

Don Diva, FEDS, Straight Stuntin, XXL, Source magazines, we love you; where do you stand in this movement? Dr. Dre, Colin Kaepernick, Anthony Anderson, The Game, I'm not saying you have to – I



From left, Carrington Keys, Andre Jacob and Duane Peter, three men accused of initiating a prison riot at State Correctional Institution at Dallas, Penn., are led into the Luzerne County Courthouse for the start of their trial in April 2016. Andre successfully defended himself. – Photo: Mark Moran, The Citizens' Voice

know what it feels like when people feel entitled to your money – I’m saying I’d really love it if you supported and endorsed this great newspaper. Do it for California.

I must admit that loving this movement, and Black people in particular, is like loving a woman who was done wrong by the men before you: Will she really see me, or will she think of the other guys every time I say “I love you”?

Divisive and substanceless newspapers make millions of dollars all year round while papers like the Bay View go broke. What does this say about us as a movement and society? Since when can anyone inspire others to join or even respect a movement that isn’t loyal to ourselves, doesn’t support ourselves, and would not even contribute the value of a Burger King meal to empower and feed the souls of its own nation? Stop following weak organizations that talk a good game and support the Bay View. Talk is cheap.

Divisive and substanceless newspapers make millions of dollars all year round while papers like the Bay View go broke. What does this say about us as a movement and society?

For more information on how to donate or support, call 415-671-0789, visit www.sfbayview.com/support or write to SF Bay View, 4917 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94124. Or donate to the Bay View’s GoFundMe campaign, at <https://www.gofundme.com/keep-the-bayview-newspaper-in-print>.

Forever yours,

Andre Jacobs

Andre Jacobs is a published author, paralegal and successful trial litigant. He is the founder of Supreme Network, a social and economic power movement with a universal approach. For more information, go to www.suremenetworkllc.wordpress.com or write to him directly: Andre Jacobs, DQ-5437, SCI-Albion, 10745 Route 18, Albion, PA 16475. You can also email him via www.offenderconnect.com.

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An Ever-Changing View

By Denise Sullivan on February 4, 2018 1:00 am



Mary and Willie Ratcliff, publishers of the Bay View newspaper, review their January edition near their archives on Jan. 10, 2018. (Emma Marie Chiang/Special to S.F. Examiner)

In 1963, prescient author and scholar James Baldwin declared that Bayview-Hunters Point was “the San Francisco Americans pretend does not exist.” But beyond its reputation for government neglect, contaminated environmental conditions, gang and police murders and, more recently, gentrification, the neighborhood remains home to thousands of working families, including Mary and Willie Ratcliff.

For more than 25 years, the couple has published the Bay View, an internationally read black newspaper, treasured independent news source and one of the few publications to be widely distributed both outside and inside the walls of America's prison nation.

"I'd always had an interest in prison issues but didn't know much about them," said Mary, who took the helm as editor in 1992. "On our very first route, we dropped papers at the jail. It was a big success at 850 Bryant, back when mass incarceration was beginning and everyone was going to state prison out of the jail — they weren't going home, they were going to prison — and they took the paper with them.

"We started getting letters," she continued. "And commentary. Brilliant political commentary. So we started to publish that, and [inmates] started sending more, stories about their own cases and confinement and solitary and all the tortures they had to survive. ... We weren't saying anything, they were, we were just publishing."

On Aug. 12, 2012, the prisoner-penned ["Agreement to End Hostilities"](#) — which originated at Pelican Bay State Prison and called on inmates throughout California to settle all disputes in a diplomatic manner — changed conditions inside the system. And reports on prisoner hunger strikes across the state in 2011 and 2013 resulted in defined limits on solitary confinement in California.

"That's when we decided to start publishing a much bigger paper," said Mary, who oversees the monthly print production of its 24 densely-packed pages and daily news updates to the website.

"We woke up the prisoners," added Willie, a contractor by trade who acquired the paper as a vehicle to make change. From the get-go, his editorials concerned police brutality, disproportionate incarceration rates for African Americans and The City's unjust housing practices — set in motion by the long-beleaguered and now-defunct Redevelopment Agency — resulting in thousands of black residents citywide losing their homes. Of course, these matters remain topical more than 25 years since the Ratcliffs began publishing their nuanced and in-depth reports on black lives.

Founded in 1976 with an eye on local, black-owned businesses, the Bay View continues to cover news and the arts scene of the Bayview and the Bay Area, alongside topical stories on human rights issues and a column by Mumia Abu-Jamal. The January edition featured a piece on net neutrality by hip hop journalist and broadcaster Davey D; a remembrance of Keita "Icky" O'Neill, who was fatally shot by a San Francisco police officer in December; and a rundown of the feud between public intellectuals Ta-Nehisi Coates and Cornel West.



Mary and Willie Ratcliff sit inside their Third Street office. (Emma Marie Chiang/Special to the S.F. Examiner)

However, the Bay View and Mary and Willie — now in their 70s and 80s, respectively — are at a new crossroads: Their senior status, combined with the outmigration of San Francisco's black population, means fewer black businesses are advertising, and revenues are down.

Leroy F. Moore, Jr., an author and worldwide disability rights activist who was first published in the Bay View in the 1990s, stressed the newspaper's value. "I can't think about what life would be without the San Francisco Bay View newspaper," he said, "especially for the next generation of black disabled youth and young adults."

The paper's future is unwritten, though ideas on the table to help sustain it include association with an educational or cultural institution and the formation of a co-op.

"It has been my honor to work with, alongside and in community with this beautiful family," said Lisa "Tiny" Gray-Garcia, a revolutionary journalist and co-founder of POOR Magazine/PoorNewsNetwork who frequently contributes to the Bay View, "they cannot close — we could not make it without this portal of real journalism."

A generous gift from a reader in England paid some of the production costs for the January and February editions.

"Some of the strongest supporters of black prisoners in the U.S. are from Europe," explained Mary. "But rather than Willie and me appealing to keep the Bay View going, we need a younger person to lead. We have wonderful volunteers, but we'd love to pay a staff."

"People need to be paid, especially in the Bay Area," echoed Willie, who first arrived in Hunters Point in the 1940s.



Mary Ratcliff refills the news stand in front of their Third Street office. (Emma Marie Chiang/Special to S.F. Examiner)

Hailing from East Liberty, Texas, a land-owning farming community, Willie was a teenage husband and father when he came West seeking work in the shipyards, among the few places at the time an African-American male could find a job in San Francisco. Dissatisfied with his 99 cents an hour, he heard about building trade opportunities in Alaska, where they were paying three times his wage.

"I saw people coming straight off the plane, and as long as they were white, they'd get the job," remembered Willie, who picketed the job site and was employed soon after. Becoming one of the most active and successful builders in the Anchorage and Valdez areas, he went on to chair the state commission on human rights, advocating for black workers, the native population and women, all of whom were seeking jobs on the pipeline.

Mary, originally from Kodiak Island, was president of her local chapter of the National Organization of Women, waging campaigns for equal employment opportunities and day care assistance; her program was awarded millions in funding and still functions. She was also interested in race matters.

"I read the biography of Frederick Douglass when I was 8 and memorized parts of it," she said.

Upon first meeting, Mary and Willie vigorously debated gender and racial equality; by her own admission, she knew nothing of lived black experience until they met and eventually fell in love. Together, they ran campaigns for public office: Willie for state Senate, and Mary for the Alaska House.

"It was widely acknowledged Alaska had the most aggressive human rights commission in the country," said Mary. "Willie insisted on a very strong legal component and hired some of the best lawyers. I'll never forget when we came here to San Francisco, and we could see some of the problems we'd been familiar with in Alaska and we wanted to solve them.



Willie Ratcliff reads the January edition of the Bay View at his desk.
(Emma Marie Chiang/Special to the S.F. Examiner)

"We asked around, 'Why doesn't anyone from the human rights commission sue the city if things aren't being done properly?'" she continued. "And people looked at us like we were insane. 'You can't sue the agency that funds you,' they'd say, but Willie did it in Alaska all the time — and he won!"

They'd come here so Mary could attend law school (she graduated from Golden Gate University and passed the bar); the plan was to open a restaurant, run Willie's construction business and publish the newspaper. But as in Alaska, Willie and his fellow black contractors were up against an entrenched system of racism: Over the years he's been "starved out of business," and repeatedly passed over for contracts. And yet, his and Mary's outlook for the possibility of true liberation for all people and the next edition of the Bay View remains undimmed.

"I used to work around the clock and I can't do that anymore. I'm not able to keep up with the workload," Mary admitted. "But I've gotten better and better as time goes on at keeping healthy. That's my biggest asset. I'm going to stay healthy and strong."

As for Willie, "I have some irons in the fire," he said. "I was born with irons in the fire."

A [crowdfunding campaign](#) to keep the Bay View in print is currently in progress.

Denise Sullivan is an author, cultural worker and editor of "Your Golden Sun Still Shines: San Francisco Personal Histories & Small Fictions." Follow her at denisesullivan.com and on Twitter @4DeniseSullivan. Editor's note: This story has been updated with clarifications on why Willie Ratcliff sought employment in Alaska and on Mary Ratcliff's comments on Alaska's human rights commission.



Bay View needs benefactors

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February 20, 2018

by Dr. Willie and Mary Ratcliff



Without major financial help, this may be the last Bay View we can afford to print. Each month, the print edition costs \$7,000 just for printing, distribution and mailing. Advertising income used to cover it, but no longer. Why do we do it? Why not publish only on the internet, as many influential news media do? Here's why:

"Your publication always seems to touch my soul. You guys really have your thumbs on the pulse of our culture, of our people," writes Jonavan Hopper 'El from a prison in North Carolina. "Being locked up, it's very rare to come across positivity. This system thrives off negativity, so publications like yours be a breath of fresh air for young brothers like me.

"I love history. Our people have been through so much. We're a strong people. They drag us through the mud and do everything in their power to degrade us, but we're resilient. Despite the hardships, reading about brothers who got out and are shining like diamonds – that's motivation! You all keep doing what you do because the image that's getting projected is what we all should be striving to live up to."

This is why we need to keep the Bay View in print: to keep the Prison Abolition Movement growing. Send these brothers some love and light: Shango Bey, 151986, and Travis Henderson-El, 1135863, both at ERDCC, 2727 Hwy K, Bonne Terre MO 63628.

motivation, and movements to end prison slavery and police brutality and win economic and environmental justice and more would be gravely wounded if we quit. The Bay View is the only publication in the U.S. that's widely distributed in prison and the hood, enabling our folks to communicate and organize.

Since the Bay View went public in mid-December with our [GoFundMe campaign](#), many good folks have contributed, but most donations have been less than \$50. We're grateful for every penny, but it doesn't add up to the \$7,000 needed every month. The Bay View's core volunteers can't do more; most of us live under the poverty line.

The Bay View is the only publication in the U.S. that's widely distributed in prison and the hood, enabling our folks to communicate and organize.

Yet San Francisco is awash in big money, millionaires and billionaires – Time reports we have the fastest widening wealth gap in the country – and awash in power, too: Both California senators, Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein, and former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi live here. Celebrities too, like Danny Glover and W. Kamau Bell.

But how do we reach out to potential benefactors? Are you the one who knows a way? Contact us by phone (415-671-0789) or email (editor@sfbayview.com) if you can offer help or ideas. Better yet, you reach out to people you know who could help. The Bay View Development Committee needs volunteers dedicated to fundraising, too. Can you help save the Bay View?

Dr. Willie and Mary Ratcliff, publisher and editor of the Bay View, can be reached at 415-671-0789 or editor@sfbayview.com. And send our brother

Without major financial help, this may be the last Bay View we can afford to print.

Jonavan and tens of thousands more Bay View readers in prison and the hood who are able to read the Bay View ONLY IN PRINT would lose that



This is the other reason the Bay View needs to keep coming out in print: Elders and others in hoods around the Bay typically lack access or familiarity with the internet. Here in our hood, the Bayview Opera House was packed on Jan. 12 to celebrate the 85th birthday of Dorris Vincent, a pillar of the community. Bay View Publisher Dr. Willie Ratcliff and African American Historical and Cultural Society Executive Director Al Williams surrounded Dorris with love.

some love and light: Jonavan Hopper 'El, 1073324, Lumberton Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 280, Polkton NC 28135.

Love letters to the Bay View

by David Perryman, aka Christian Dave

First, I want to say to the entire Bay View family, you are a bright light in a dark place. May God shine his blessing on you all during the holidays.

This letter is a powerful narrative with the ambition to do a powerful thank you of appreciation for what you do.

The Bay View newspaper gives “the People” a voice in the darkness where our oppressors are constantly dynamiting our hopes. What you do gives us a tool so powerful we have an equalizer to throw lefts and rights or fight the good fight of faith that would make Malcolm, Martin and Sojourner Truth yell those oh so famous words to our oppressor, “And down goes Frazier!” Yeah, baby! J

The Bay View newspaper gives “the People” a voice in the darkness where our oppressors are constantly dynamiting our hopes.

So, Bay View on behalf of all prisoners everywhere I turn a flip of the top bunk into a James Brown split to say thank you, and if you keep this up, I might have to bring you home to Mama. I/we love you.

Send our brother some love and light: David Perryman, aka Christian Dave, AB1204, CSP – Sac A2-132, P.O. Box 290066, Represa, CA 95671.



Bay View publisher Dr. Willie Ratcliff holds the Bay View banner in San Jose outside the Santa Clara County Jail on Aug. 19, 2017, at the march and rally for the Millions for Prisoners Human Rights March. – Photo: Jahahara Alkebulan-Ma’at

Help save the Bay View newspaper!

by Bobby M. Dixon

The Bay View newspaper has been serving the Bay Area and the Black Diaspora for over 40 years. The Bay View is also a prisoner’s link to the outside world.

Right now the Bay View is in need of the People’s help! The Bay View newspaper is on the verge of losing its print edition. Established in 1976, the Bay View has been giving us years of liberation journalism, and now it’s up to us, its readers, to keep the papers rolling off the press! We the People need the Bay View.

The only way that the Bay View print edition can be saved is through your heartfelt donations, so let us all reach down into our pockets, purses, wallets, checkbooks and even into the piggy bank and donate what we can afford to give, in order to let the Bay View keep on informing us of all the vital news stories that we need to know.

The Bay View has been giving us years of liberation journalism, and now it's up to us, its readers, to keep the papers rolling off the press! We the People need the Bay View.

Please let's not forget that we are all in this struggle together and that the Bay View newspaper has been there with us all the way! So now it's our time to be there in the Bay View's time of need. Do the right thing: As a reader, you are a part of the Bay View, so give all you can afford to give. Send donations to SF Bay View, 4917 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94124-2309.

Send our brother some love and light: Bobby M. Dixon, C-41652, CHCF C-2A-150, P.O. Box 32200, Stockton CA 95213. Bobby is the longtime minister of justice for the National NABPP-PC and All Prisoners Lives Matter and a strong supporter of the Bay View.

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Three love letters to the Bay View from behind the walls

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July 15, 2018

Editor's note: It's been a challenging year for the Bay View. With ad revenue falling and the cost of printing and mailing rising, we need a benefactor with the means not only to pay the production costs but to hire a new editor because your old editor, at 79, needs to share the load. And the new editor will need a staff. Lighting and inspiring our search for that help are the wonderful letters that prisoners write. Here are three that touched our souls.

Dear Dr. Willie and Mary Ratcliff,

I've been very blessed to have been able to receive the Bay View for the last few years. I've been confined the last 39 years. I've lost contact with all family members as well as communication with the outside world.

Your newspaper has been my communication. It is a blessing any time I receive one.

But I don't understand how can anyone say they love and appreciate the Bay View but won't contribute any donation to see that it stays in print. People must understand that it takes money to make sure the Bay View stays in print.

It's my lifeline being able to read it. I don't have funds myself. If I did, I would make sure to send some type of funds to help it stay out there to help



“Save the Bay View” – Art: Roger “Rab” Moore, G-02296, HDSP C8-108, P.O. Box 3030, Susanville CA 96127

people like myself who have nothing truly to look forward to but the SF Bay View every month.

The SF Bay View is not just a prison newspaper. People must understand money is needed to save that newspaper we say we all love. Money is needed. Bless the Brother Troy Williams who tried to help.

I pray the people who feel it's a free paper will contribute what they can to help save the Bay View. The paper is not free; it still takes funds to keep it out there.

Your newspaper has been my communication. It is a blessing any time I receive one.

I pray the best for you. You help a lot of people with that newspaper. I must say I'm one of them. Thank you.

Eugene 'Nadir' Menefield

Send our brother some love and light: Eugene Menefield, B-43126, RJD C13-101, 480 Alta Rd, San Diego CA 92179

Dear Bay View,

I'm here in Charleston Correctional Center. I just borrowed a copy of your Bay View National Black Newspaper and it stoked fires of righteousness and reawakened a revolutionary spirit that caused me to write this letter.

This is my newspaper, my culture's newspaper, the newspaper for the “People,” so it's hard thinking now that due to lack of funding something as powerful as your righteousness could be lost. You say it takes a minimum of \$7,000 a month to produce the newspaper, that you need benefactors.

It amazes me how so many business-savvy, conscious-minded free thinkers and freedom fighters – Black men and women who are well off – refuse to, or have yet to, invest in the Black community and struggle by supporting and investing and building the Bay View National Black Newspaper, when I have yet to see any other publication more concerned with the “cause” of our people, whether in prison or on the street.

This is my newspaper, my culture's newspaper, the newspaper for the "People," so it's hard thinking now that due to lack of funding something as powerful as your righteousness could be lost.

Whether it be to support activists, organizations, politicians, musicians, women's rights, criminal justice and/or challenge injustices, this newspaper, though based in San Francisco, concerns itself with global events – and momentum must be created to save it.

Whether from fundraisers, charging for advocacy assistance, raising costs of subscriptions, reanalyzing marketing strategies, including certain columns, Black bake sales, GoFundMe pages, podcast creations or printing contents from computer printouts with less columns, something needs to be done.

This is a "for us by us" newsletter, i.e. a newspaper which the community as a whole should stand behind. We need to stand outside and stop taking an interest in white America and focus instead on Black America.

Please don't let this paper die, people. We finally have our own Black newspaper. Let's make it the best Black America has ever had, one that competes with major newspapers.

This is not just about San Francisco; this is about us. In closing, I am one man. I can't do much being in prison, but included is a pledge to put my St. Louis potnas on point and spread the word. Plus, and on the way is a small donation in the spirit of Kujichagulia, self-determination to create for ourselves.



"San Francisco Bay View Fallen Angel" – Art: Julia "JHoney" Gregg, 10925 SDWP, 3200 East Hwy 24, Pierre SD 57501

In closing, I truly hope you realize what you have in this newspaper. It is the "voice of the People" and must be saved no matter the sacrifice.

Malik Jahyal (IS-RA-EL Moses) Nettles

Send our brother some love and light: Malik Nettles, 507107, SECC, 300 E. Pedro Simmons Dr., Charleston MO 63834

To the Bay View,

First, I would like to thank you for your hard work, dedication and the strong passion you have to deliver a message that hears the true understanding of how it is in life. I've been receiving the Bay

View for a year now and it has brought so much enlightenment to my life and it allows me to see who I really am.

I've never had a newspaper I can read that moves my soul and spirit the way it does. I've learned so much about culture; it's going to have a positive effect on me whenever I get released. I've also learned how important it is to know about politics. Our rights are so powerful but sometimes we fail to realize that because this life has consumed us with materialism.

I would like to thank you for your hard work, dedication and the strong passion you have to deliver a message that hears the true understanding of how it is in life. I've been receiving the Bay View for a year now and it has brought so much enlightenment to my life and it allows me to see who I really am.

That one person you send to benefits a lot of people on this unit. People are lined up waiting to read the Bay View. The Bay View has a powerful impact on us, and we all thank you for that.

After reading your last couple of papers, we are aware of us not being able to read this paper again if you don't meet certain requirements. Well, the brothers and I are praying that this paper will continue to be sent here so we can continue to be taught by the love that is put into the Bay View.

Yuntrell Williams

Send our brother some love and light: Yuntrell Williams, 1467798, Ruben Torres Unit, 125 Private Rd 4313, Hondo, TX 78861.

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Bay View







SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Legacy Business Registry Case Report

HEARING DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

****The following report provides recommendations for six (6) Legacy Business applications.****

Filing Date: August 22, 2018
Case No.: 2018-011943LBR
Business Name: San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper
Business Address: 4917 3rd Street
Zoning: NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Scale)
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 5326/011
Applicant: Mary and Willie Ratcliff, Editors
4917 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94124
Nominated By: Supervisor Malia Cohen, District 10
Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625
shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822
tim.frye@sfgov.org

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BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper (a.k.a. Bay View) published its first edition in September 1976. The newspaper was founded by Bayview Hunters Point native Muhammad al-Kareem. Although he had no formal journalistic training or direct newspaper production experience, Mr. al-Kareem persisted and learned by doing. Mr. al-Kareem transferred ownership of the Bay View newspaper to Mary and Willie Ratcliff in 1991. The paper was and is an informational and educational tool that gives voice to the African American community.

The newspaper is free and distributed widely throughout the neighborhood and beyond. From 1992 to 2008, the Ratcliffs distributed the paper door to door throughout Bayview Hunters Point and several public housing developments nearby. The paper also has an extensive subscription base: it is mailed to 3,000 subscribers, nearly all of them incarcerated in almost every state. With this large readership in the prison system, the newspaper serves as a significant family and community reintegration tool for formerly incarcerated individuals. Although the newspaper office has changed location several times over the years, it has always been located along the 3rd Street corridor.

The Bay View newspaper was conceived as tool to spotlight Bayview Hunters Point and give to voice to African American residents citywide. Over the decades, San Francisco's African American population has seen a steady decline (see below). As a result, the Bay View newspaper now also reports on the broader issues of concern that affect communities of color.

The business is located on the east side of 3rd Street between Palou and Quesada avenues in the Bayview neighborhood. It is within a NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Scale) Zoning District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1976.

2. *Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?*

Yes. San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper has operated continuously in San Francisco for 42 years.
- ii. San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper has contributed to the history and identity of San Francisco by serving as a newspaper that gives voice to the African American community and specifically to the Bayview Hunters Point community.
- iii. San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

3. *Is the business associated with a culturally significant art/craft/cuisine/tradition?*

Yes. The business is associated with the craft of journalism and with African American history and culture.

4. *Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and/or architecture?*

Persons

Yes. The business is associated with its founder Muhammad al-Kareem and current owners Willie and Mary Ratcliff, who are all considered important and significant members of the Bayview Hunters Point community. They have all contributed to the tradition of African American newspapers.

5. *Is the property associated with the business listed on a local, state, or federal historic resource registry?*

No. The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status of "B" (Properties Requiring Further Consultation and Review) as the building was constructed in 1902 and has not been formally evaluated.

6. *Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?*

No. Although the newspaper is listed in the draft African American Citywide Historic Context Statement as a resource, no information about the newspaper is included.

7. *Has the business been cited in published literature, newspapers, journals, etc.?*

Yes. In 1997, the paper was awarded the honor of being named 'The Black Newspaper of the Year' by the National Black Chamber of Commerce. Among the Bay View's many other awards are the Society of Professional Journalists' Excellence in Journalism Award in 1996 and their Freedom of Information Award in 2004. The Bay View was named Best of the Bay by the Bay Guardian in 1997 and 2009.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

- 4917 3rd Street

Recommended by Applicant

- Its mission to inform, educate, and rally the African American community, Bayview and beyond
- Role as a communications network for the Black community worldwide
- Distribution of a free print edition
- Subscription service, including to prisoners throughout the country
- Stories and commentary on the full range of Black trials and triumphs, including the economy, politics, arts, education, history, current events, health, and religion
- Stunning color photography
- An online newspaper

Additional Recommended by Staff

- None



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution No.

HEARING DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

Case No.: 2018-011943LBR
Business Name: San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper
Business Address: 4917 3rd Street
Zoning: NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Scale)
40-X Height and Bulk District
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ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR SAN FRANCISCO BAY VIEW NATIONAL BLACK NEWSPAPER CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 4917 3RD STREET, (BLOCK/LOT 5326/011).

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the City's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on September 19, 2018, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission** hereby recommends that San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission** hereby recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper.

Location(s):

- 4917 3rd Street

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- *Its mission to inform, educate, and rally the African American community, Bayview and beyond*
- *Role as a communications network for the Black community worldwide*
- *Distribution of a free print edition*
- *Subscription service, including to prisoners throughout the country*
- *Stories and commentary on the full range of Black trials and triumphs, including the economy, politics, arts, education, history, current events, health, and religion*
- *Stunning color photography*
- *An online newspaper*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission's findings and recommendations** are made solely for the purpose of evaluating the subject business's eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry, and the Historic Preservation Commission makes no finding that the subject property or any of its features constitutes a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission** hereby directs its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file 2018-011943LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on September 19, 2018.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: