Juneteenth 2009

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

Calling on
African Kings
Calling on
African Queens

For a people’s
Congress
So we
Will progress

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

Not calling
Exploiters
Not calling
Oppressors

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

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

Calling on
New Guineans
And all
Melanesians
Show your love
For Lumumba
Show your love
For Nkrumah

Nzinga of Angola
Nyerere
And Haiti’s
Aristide

For the love
Of Malcolm X
For the love
Of ourselves

Calling Freedom
Loving Africans
For more unity in
Our community

Calling for unity
Calling for progress
Calling for an 8th and 9th
African People’s Congress

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

Calling on my people
For the real
An 8th and 9th People’s Congress
You know the real deal
Africa Bound

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

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

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

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

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

The Journal of Pan African Studies, vol.4, no.1, November 2010
Long distance love
Yesterday and today
Please have no sorrow
We’ll make love tomorrow
Obamaland

Obama land
In America
Your dad hails
From Kenya Africa

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

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

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

Obama
Your day
has come
Obama#1
The United States of Africa

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unity that is homegrown
Greater than the world has known
Africa uniting on its own
To make Africa strong
Unite African states
Empower the African people not the snakes
Follow authentic Africans
Ignore the African fakes

Though the time
has come
We have to
convince some

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

Mali, Ivory Coast
And Senegal
Can you hear the call

Equatorial Guinea, Bissau
and Guinea Conakry
Can you
feel me

What about Libya
and Namibia
Egypt
and Tunisia

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

Together we will
end the poverty
Empowerment must emerge
The product from the African entity
More trade with
Each other
One currency in unity
United my sister and my brother

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

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

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

African brothers and sisters
Hear this call
United we stand
Divided we fall
Ukali Interviews Charles Chatmon of LABBX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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What are you latest moves and projects as a poet?

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

Thank you very much Charles Chatmon for this interview!

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

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

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


http://www.youtube.com/user/ukalitheafrican
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPz7xAnLF9M
http://www.nathanielturner.com/larryuklajohnsonreddtable.htm

The Journal of Pan African Studies, vol.4, no.1, November 2010