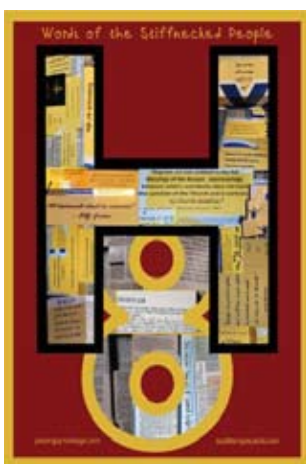


Urban Farmer Bares His Traumatic Life Beekeeper, Painter & Sculptor Has Award-Winning Autobiography

by Mia Ousley, Editor

Many of you know Scott Terry from his local agricultural ventures, such as his beekeeping (I buy his honey at Estudillo Produce) and his urban farming (see his related article on page 5). But Terry is also a painter, multi-media artist, and writer.

On his website, www.scottterryprojects.com, you can purchase numerous watercolors focusing on rural landscapes, or buy a poster of his “Prop H8” – a 250-wooden block sculpture wrapped in “Yes on 8” anti-gay marriage propaganda and Biblical text. They’re arranged in chronological and topographical



order, beginning with a miniature Bible in the center and yellow blocks rising out of the chaos and winding their way through a sea of scripture.

Terry says he was silent during the controversial Proposition 8 campaign of 2008 because he didn’t see himself ever getting married. “I just didn’t care enough to get involved.” However he professes a “really short fuse when people take their religious dogma out of their respective churches and expect everyone else to adopt it.”

The sculpture was completed in

2009, after the election, and Terry calls it his “late entry into the argument and an apology for my earlier silence.”

Terry made a powerful video of the sculpture and put it on YouTube.

– continued on page 8

Jerry Maughan Day Dec. 12

Engineering Inspector Retires After 33 Years

by Mia Ousley, Editor

It was a long night at City Hall this past Dec. 3, but for good reason. Dozens of San Leandrans were recognized for their contributions to our city, the Council started the process to video broadcasting its meetings, and a draft Medical Marijuana Dispensary Ordinance was discussed.

The bulk of the evening, however, was taken up with proclamations, presentations, awards, and honors, starting with Mayor Stephen Cassidy proclaiming December 12, 2012, as “Jerry Maughan Day” in San Leandro.

Maughan was retiring from the City after 33 years of service. He started in

1979 as a summer intern and eventually became an inspector in the Engineering & Transportation Department. After the Mayor read a list of engineering projects Maughan had inspected during his tenure, including 16 years as a sidewalk program inspector, the audience gave Maughan a standing ovation.

“The greatest gift San Leandro ever gave me,” said Maughan, “was my wife, Cheryl,” who was working in the City’s Finance Department when they met. He added that San Leandro “has more employees who are committed and hard working than I’ve ever seen.”

Save the Date

Bi-Annual Meeting of The BNA & Board Elections

Thurs, March 14
 7:00-9:00 p.m.
 All Saints Church
 911 Dowling @ E. Merle

Guest Speaker
City Manager
Chris Zapata

BNA Board Meetings

All Saints Church, 911 Dowling
 2nd Wednesday Every Month

January 9 – 7:00 p.m.
 February 13 – 7:00 p.m.
 Mar. 14 – Neighborhood Meeting

City's Annual Planning Meeting Jan. 26

Now's the Time to Make the Budget Reflect Our Values

by Pauline Cutter, District 5 City Councilmember & Member of The BNA

The City Council will hold its day-long annual planning meeting on Saturday, January 26, beginning 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Community Center. This is when the Council and the City Manager set goals and general direction for the coming year.

This is a time for city leaders to reflect on what the city is doing well, what the city can improve upon, and how we can plan for the future. This activity is also directly related to the budget, since any plans and programs require staff resources or other funding for implementation.

I believe this is a most critical time for the community to voice opinions, both positive and negative, about city services.

To ensure our city's long-term fiscal health, over the past year City Manager Chris Zapata and Finance Director David Baum have been working on plans for a two-year budget cycle. This will mean that the city will be able to plan for two years to evaluate if our revenue is keeping up with our spending. I believe it will give the city a better look at how our current decisions will affect the budget in the future, which will help us make better decisions.

The city budget is a fluid docu-

ment or plan that gets adopted once a year but is constantly adjusted to make sure the city has its finances in order. However, the time to make the kinds of changes to the budget that will shift funding to one program over another – or to add more services and cut others – is during this planning meeting and budget planning workshop.

Upon starting a new budget year, the budget from the previous year virtually "rolls over," meaning that the positions and services in the current budget stay the same. Then one can take a look at any areas they would like to see changed. You also look at if there is more revenue planned and what new or current expenses will be added or changed. I also believe that this is a time to make sure our budget reflects who we are as a city.

Are we spending enough on maintaining our roads? Our city is now ranked last in Alameda County for the conditions of our streets and roads.

Are we spending enough to help our neediest citizens? For the past three years, the city's contribution to non-profit and social services organizations serving our residents has decreased drastically.

Are we maintaining or improving the quality of life services to our

residents? Although the Senior Center has opened and has a very successful program for seniors, our recreation program and library hours have been reduced.

Are we doing enough to keep our current businesses and attract new commerce to our city? With "Lit San Leandro" coming online, there is great potential for new businesses coming to San Leandro, but the plans for the Village Marketplace in the downtown have changed and the new Kaiser facility still hasn't announced its plans to develop the land owned adjacent to the new hospital.

These are just a few of the questions that will be asked at the City Council's annual planning meeting,

If you have questions of your own, please share them with us in person or email them to me ahead of time so I can share them with my Council colleagues and staff.

As always if you have questions or concerns please write me at pcutter@sanleandro.org.

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- The BNA Email Discussion Forum
- A Voice to Address City Hall
- Info About Plans For Our Community
- Development of Public Hearings to Address Our Concerns
- City and School News and Events
- Important Info about Our Neighborhood
- Funds for Roosevelt and Washington Schools

What has The BNA done recently?

- Community Organizing for Neighborhood Revitalization
- Funding for Neighborhood Pantry to Feed the Hungry
- Drafted Chronic Nuisance Response Ordinance
- Transport Kennels and Accessories for SLPD K-9 Unit
- National Night Out Sponsorship & Reimbursement
- Washington School Classroom Projector
- Roosevelt School H.E.R.O. program
- Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon Donations
- Neighborhood Night at Farrelly Pool
- Trash Mob & Plant Mob
- Christmas Caroling
- Holiday Decorations at Victoria Circle

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☐ Broadmoor Benefactor\$40

☐ Basic Membership.....\$20

☐ Other/Donation.....\$_____

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Member information is neither shared nor sold

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P.O. Box 1222, San Leandro, CA 94577

OR JOIN ONLINE AT www.thebna.org/html/join.shtml

Video of Council Meetings on the Horizon Green Light Given to Gather Proposals for Necessary Equipment

By Mia Ousley, Editor

One of the final acts of our City Council last year was to give the green light to video broadcasting Council meetings. Staff was given the go-ahead to gather proposals for the necessary equipment and modifications.

How can we do this with the City's budgetary woes? Believe it or not, we've already paid for it.

In 1984, Congress said local government needed to be more transparent. You can see the result on your monthly cable bill, where there's now a 1% Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) access charge.

According to Rayan Fowler, the City's Information Services Manager, this fee was initially used by the cable companies to provide public access channels, and San Leandro managed the franchise agreement, overseeing and intervening if necessary when a resident had a problem to work out with the cable company. About three years ago, however, the State took over the franchise agreement management for all of California.

"When the State took over," Fowler told the *Beacon*, "that ability to get something for our community went away." So for the past couple years the City has been getting the funds directly – a total of \$179,000 as of this past Sep-

tember, and about \$42,000 flowing into the fund every quarter, with the next influx expected this February.

"The money can only be used for equipment or equipment operators," Fowler said, as long as the equipment operators are non-city staff. "The money cannot be used to pay government employees."

Only Council meetings will be broadcast initially, due to the cost of operators, though it may later be expanded to School Board meetings. Committee meetings are not a current priority, since the Committee format is currently being restructured.

Fowler said that Fremont just spent

\$300,000 to revamp its whole Council Chambers. "It was one of the first cities to video broadcast its Council meetings, so the recent expenditure was to upgrade the old equipment." Fremont went live with its new set up in the first week of this past December.

"If we go forward," Fowler said, "We could easily bring in video and upgrade sound. We've already paid for the program that records audio," she added, referring to the live audio streaming currently done of Council meetings, "now we can work on video recordings and eventually update our equipment, some of which is as old as the Council Chambers."

'Year of the Snake' Celebration At Library February 23rd

Join San Leandro in a Lunar New Year celebration on Saturday, February 23, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Main Library. Admission is free.

Welcome the Year of the Snake with fun crafts, beautiful music, exciting dancing, and bright costumes! The amazing performances scheduled for this celebration will delight guests of all ages and will include the lion dancers of Vovinam Viet-Do-Dao of San Jose, Dale Chung's magic act, Ms.

Wei's Chinese Children Dancers from her Asian Cultural & Performing Arts Academy, and performers from the Korean Culture Center in San Jose.

Free Asian craft-making sessions for children will be hosted by the Asian Community Cultural Association of San Leandro. Beverages and delicious Asian cuisine food plates will be available for purchase.

For more information call the Library Information Desk at 577-3971.



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Donate Your Extra Harvest to the Hungry Local Garden Exchange Leads to Bounty for Davis Street Center

By Scott Terry, Member of The BNA

I know how it feels to be hungry.

Thirty-five years ago, when breakfast often didn't exist for me as a kid, I walked to school in the morning and ate my small sack lunch on the way. I remember being a very poor college student and surviving on fifty-cent bags of day-old bagels. I learned how to can jam during those years, at a time when I was poor but blackberries and apricots were free for the picking.

Surprisingly, after growing up, I had forgotten some of the details of poverty, until the day when I delivered a truck load of lemons to the Davis Street Family Resource Center. I have a small urban farm in Hayward, and the bulk of what it produces goes to the folks at Davis Street.

I didn't come up with the idea to donate produce on my own. Several years ago, members of The Broadmoor Garden Exchange, a neighborhood gardening club in San Leandro, started tossing around suggestions that those of us with successful gardens might give our surplus to Davis Street. There

are people in our neighborhood who would appreciate home grown food, Garden Exchange members said.



Pauline Cutter offered to collect small donations on her front porch and drive the larger collection to Davis Street once a week. Mary Jo Knueven offered to climb my massive orange tree to harvest the bountiful supply of oranges from the top. Now, I won't tell you how old Mary Jo is, but I can tell you that people her age should not be climbing orange trees, even if they are collecting food for the needy.

So two years ago, I found myself

looking for an investment property to purchase, and it occurred to me that, with the right property, I could indulge my desire to play farm boy and donate the produce to Davis Street. Shortly after, the right property came up for sale in downtown Hayward. It was a short-sale of a half-acre property, containing two small and neglected rental units and 20 mature but equally neglected fruit trees. There were figs, apples, plums, quinces, avocados, and lemons already planted.

After pruning back an enormous lemon tree that had collapsed onto the roof of one of the rental houses, I found myself with about 200 pounds of lemons that I didn't know what to do with. I couldn't imagine giving them to Davis Street. Hungry people don't need lemons; what are needy families going to do with lemons? But I couldn't bear to throw them in the compost bin, so I loaded them into my truck and drove over to Davis Street for my very first delivery from my urban farm, imagining that I would apologize for bringing something as useless as a truck load of lemons.

It turned out that I could just as

– continued on page 6

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Plastic Bags Should Be Gone from Stores

County Ordinance to Reduce Litter Went Into Effect January 1st

by Mia Ousley, Editor

You should all know by now that single-use plastic bags are no longer available at most stores that sell packaged food in San Leandro and throughout Alameda County. Stores are now required to charge a minimum of 10¢ for each bag, though they are still permitted to provide free plastic produce bags to protect and transport produce, bulk food, or meat. Restaurants and food establishments are exempt from the ordinance.

The Reusable Bag Ordinance was adopted by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority in January of last year. All 14 cities, including San Leandro, and unincorporated Alameda County agreed to participate in the ordinance, increasing the number of jurisdictions with bag ordinances statewide by nearly 30 percent.

The ordinance is intended to reduce litter, keep plastic bags out of local waterways, and encourage the use of reusable bags. To avoid the bag charge, customers are encouraged to bring their own bags when shopping.

Following are tips shoppers can use to remember their reusable bags:

- Store your bags in the car.
- Keep reusable bags at your office or place of work.
- Hang your bags on the coat rack

or near the front door.

- Clip your shopping list to the bags.
- Keep a compact bag in your purse, backpack, or pocket.

To learn more about the Reusable

Bag Ordinance you can go online to www.ReusableBagsAC.org. For information about the City's efforts to reduce waste and promote recycling, go to www.recyclesanleandro.org or call 577-6026.

Farm Harvest Feeds the Hungry

– continued from Page 5

well have brought them gold. There are plenty of people for whom lemons are a treasure, I learned. Something as simple and inexpensive as a lemon is an extravagance for some of our neighbors who enjoy cooking with lemons but can't afford to purchase them.

The harvest from my farm is varied, depending on the season, but I tend to focus on edibles that aren't too complicated or time-consuming to harvest.

Strawberries and green beans take too much time to pick, but tomatoes, summer and winter squash, melons, corn, chard, kale, and cauliflower are productive.

In 2011, the first year with my new

urban farm, I donated a little over 1,500 pounds of produce to Davis Street.

In 2012, with the help of Garden Exchange members, I have donated a little over 3,200 pounds.

Today, with a new awareness of the need in our community, I no longer feel the need to apologize for delivering lemons. Or for delivering zucchini that are larger than optimal. Or for delivering apples that aren't all the same size.

There are plenty of people who are happy to receive them through the Davis Street Family Resource Center (at 3081 Teagarden Street in San Leandro).



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The Dogwalk Chronicles – December 25th

Insights Into The Broadmoor on Any Given Day

by Tracy C. Baker, Member of The BNA

Holidays in The Broadmoor

Twass the night before Christmas

And all through The Broadmoor

Holiday wreaths decorated

Each and every door

The stockings were hung

By the chimney with care

Yet we dare not burn

No, no ... Spare the Air

When through the 'hood

There arose such a clatter

Buffy sprang from her bed

To see what was the matter

She barked and she growled

And let out a big woof!

When she heard a commotion

Up on our roof

I flew from my bed

"A burglar!" I said

But nothing to fear

Except eight tiny reindeer

And a fat, jolly man

With a bright red nose

Who tried to stuff himself down our little chimney

But could only fit his toes!

So, I turned off alarm and opened the front door

And we had a wonderful chat over cookies and milk ...



Hope you all (and your furry friends, too) had a wonderful holiday season.

Here's to another great year in The Broadmoor!
Cheers!

Time to hang up the leash. Anon.

See you in The Broadmoor!

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'Their Eyes Were Watching God'

Big Read 2013 Focuses on African American Culture Through March

By Mia Ousley, Editor

From January through March, San Leandrans as a community will read Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* as part of the nation's Big Read program. An American folklorist, anthropologist, and author during the time of the Harlem Renaissance, Zora Neale Hurston is considered one of the pre-eminent writers of twentieth-century African-American literature.

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. The goal of the Big Read, which is the largest reading program in the United States, is to bring together partners across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment.

For the third consecutive year, the San Leandro Library is the recipient of a Big Read grant. "Our library's 2013 Big Read program offers a wonderful opportunity for San Leandrans to learn more about the broad range of the black experience in the United States and the considerable contributions of African Americans to our culture and history," said Mayor Stephen Cassidy. "I congratulate our Library for its continued success in obtaining grants that promote reading, educate our community, and celebrate the rich diversity of San Leandro."

The Library is extremely proud that Lucy Anne Hurston, the niece of Zora Neale Hurston, will be the guest speaker at the Big Read Kickoff Event on Saturday, February 9, at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Hurston, an academic sociologist

and author, will discuss her aunt's works and life as well as her own works and research experiences.

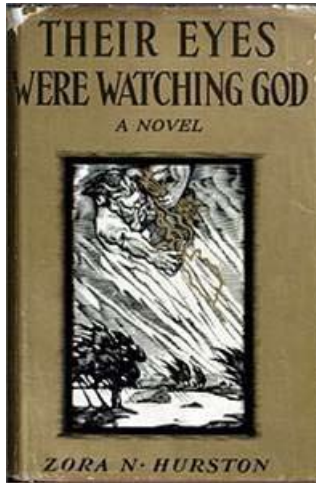
After Ms. Hurston's presentation, all attendees are encouraged to sign up for a library- or a patron-sponsored book discussion group for *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. All those who sign up at this event will receive a free copy of Hurston's novel, while supplies last.

Other events for this Big Read program include an "Ancestral Memories" quilt exhibit by the African American Quilt Guild

of Oakland, a panel discussion of the role of the strong female character in African American literature with the Black Caucus and local author Mary Monroe, screenings of the movie "Their Eyes Were Watching God," and a field trip to the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco.

Children's events include a story quilt art workshop with the Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA), and teens can participate in a four-day art workshop with Malik Seneferu, a Bay Area artist.

The program will culminate with the "Hatitude" finale, which is by special invitation to those who participated in one of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* book discussion groups.



Scott Terry's Art & AutoBio

– continued from Front Page

It's entitled *Gay Marriage – A Mystery - Church History* (www.youtube.com/watch?v=rra4SAdySEk).

Most recently Terry published his first book, an autobiography of his life as an ex-Jehovah's Witness gay cowboy.

Released just this past October, Terry's book is entitled *Cowboys, Armageddon, and the Truth: How a Gay Child Was Saved from Religion*. The story chronicles Terry's life, not only as a gay Jehovah's Witness but as a neglected and abused child. His constant prayers to God to be saved from his homosexuality is not unique, but his personal story is.

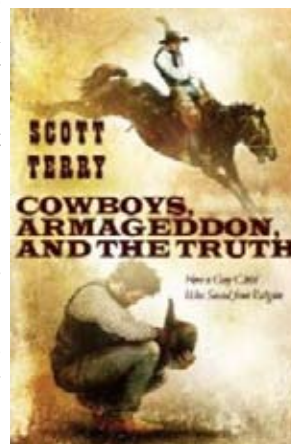
Terry does manage to "pull himself up by his bootstraps and carve out a

happy, fulfilling life," as one reviewer put it, but I find a lingering painfulness reading the book, realizing how many other young people in similar circumstances were not so lucky.

Cowboys has been nominated for the Over the Rainbow List and a Lambda Award in two categories, and was named one of the best LGBT book releases of 2012 by Out in Print and Band of Thebes.

Gathering research for this book led Terry to finding Freeminds.org, one of the largest ex-cult and ex-Witness websites,

where he writes a blog. He also hosts his own blog ("A Gay Exit from the Truth") and an LGBT Jehovah's Witness forum ("Out of the Kingdom Hall Closet") on the Freeminds site.



Real Estate Roundup in The Broadmoor Market Turning Upward, Though Many Homeowners Still in Distress

By Earle Shenk, Real Estate Broker & Member of The BNA

Well neighbors, it appears we have turned the corner and the end of the precipitous drop in the real estate market has been met!

In the middle of March 2012, an abrupt uptick in sales activity occurred throughout the entire Bay Area. Multiple all-cash offers became the norm on well-priced homes; recently, a fixer on Kenilworth received 68 all-cash offers.

Multiple offers are being spurred

on by several forces: buyers/investors see the market has bottomed and is on the rebound, there is an extreme shortage of inventory, and interest rates are at historic lows and will eventually have to go up.

For comparison, in December 2009 there were close to 500 homes for sale in San Leandro, whereas there were only 38 homes on the market in December 2012. Current interest rates are near 3.5% for a 30-year fixed rate,

2.75% for a 15-year, truly historic lows.

Even if homes flood the market in 2013, I firmly believe there's enough pent-up buyer demand to cover the inventory, so values should noticeably continue to rise.

However, still very disconcerting is the high number of homeowners in distress.

Questions? Call or text me at 220-6407.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total Homes Sold	43	45	26	43	61
# Normal Sales	22	17	14	20	37
# Distressed Sales	21	28	12	23	24
% Distressed Sales	49%	62%	46%	53%	39%
Low/High Sales Price	\$144,900/ \$650,000	\$165,000/ \$557,000	\$120,000/ \$532,000	\$140,000/ \$507,600	\$180,000/ \$630,000
Median Sales Price	\$400,000	\$335,000	\$372,692	\$306,200	\$320,000
Total \$ Volume	\$16,730,525	\$15,347,843	\$9,471,460	\$13,329,263	\$20,357,085

(information derived from the MLS)

Local Brewery Raises \$\$ for Nonprofits Beer Drinkers Delight Each Month at Drake's Brewing 'First Friday'

By Mia Ousley, Editor

For \$20 – **cash only** – you can enjoy some great local ale and support our local schools and other nonprofits at the same time.

Drake's Brewing Company holds beer tasting fundraisers on the first Friday of every month, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. in its outdoor lot.

The event is for adults aged 21 and over, with a \$5 voluntary donation to the nonprofit, although children may attend free of charge with their parents.

At Drake's Fridays, \$15 will get

you your very own Drake's tasting glass (for keeps) and three tokens for three full pours. Additional tokens can be purchased for \$3.50, with net proceeds going to the nonprofit.

Eight regular Drake's Beers are available, plus current specials and seasonal beers when available. Different monthly food trucks or vendors cook in the corners (anything from Korean barbeque to paella), and music is often on the speakers.

Drake's is an urban craft brewery established in 1989 and operating from

the former powerhouse of a long-gone Caterpillar plant in San Leandro.

Drake's can be found ... but it's not easy. Head to WalMart in Westgate Shopping Center (off Davis just past I-880). Park in the lot in front of Wal-mart and Sports Authority, and walk between the two stores to get to the brewery. Look for the grain silo and Drake's sign. Feel free to bring your own lawn chairs!

Visit Drake's First Friday Events (drinkdrakes.com/site/?page_id=24) for more details.

BNA Member's 4th Novel in the Works

Cynthia Jaynes Omololu Writes for Young Children and Teens

by Mia Ousley, Editor

The Broadmoor is home to a plethora of talented folks, and one of our more prominent literary giants is Cynthia Jaynes Omololu.

Her children's book, *When It's Six O'Clock in San Francisco*, has been one of our family's favorites for a few years. This book takes the reader on a trip through time zones while exposing us to the various cultures around the world. Simultaneously it emphasizes the similarities in all children's lives.

For example, when it's six o'clock in San Francisco



and Jared is just starting his day, it's four o'clock in Cape Town and Nkosi stops to look at used CDs in the market, and it's eleven o'clock in Santiago and Elena is hard at work on a math problem at school.

Omololu held her release party for the book to a standing room only crowd at Zocalo

Coffeehouse in September 2009. (I know, I know, I should have written this story for the *Beacon* then.) And the hit of the evening was the cake, an edible representation of the book stacked atop *Dirty Little Secrets*, Omololu's book that was released the following year. (See the picture above.)

Dirty Little Secrets is about 16-year-old Lucy, who has successfully kept secret the hoarding of her mother's that has turned their home into a filthy trash dump. But just when she has the unexpected potential for a boyfriend, something happens that threatens to uncover her hidden life, and Lucy is faced with how she can bury her own past to live the present. Watch two [trailers of the book](#) on YouTube:

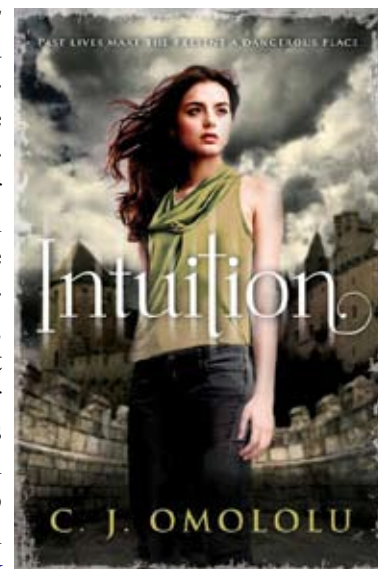
(www.youtube.com/watch?v=3S5JafAQn_c)

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KQAPCMx43g)

Most recently, Omololu's *Transcendence* was released this past June. Inspired by the son of a friend who died in 2007, *Transcendence* is about teens who keep seeing vivid scenes of places they've never been in a time they've never known, and come to realize these aren't just visions but glimpses into their own past lives. When their paths cross, the honorable are hunted by rogues out for vengeance for the past.

Transcendence was translated and published in German just this past December. The sequel, *Intuition*, is expected to be released this coming June. Omololu has recently completed another novel which has been sent to publishers.

You can learn more about Omololu's works at her website www.cjomololu.com/ and blog www.cynjay.blogspot.com.



The Historic Bal Theatre
www.thebaltheatre.com

Mar. 23 – UFO X Fest: Quest for Truth Conference
(featuring George Noory, David Wilcos, Zareth the Alchemist, Dan Dillman, Servando Gonzalez, Jason Martell, Ruben Uriarte)

April 27 – Men in Suits (Nor. Cal. big screen premier)

June 22 – Godzilla Night (featuring 2 Godzilla films, special guests, live music, prizes & more)

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