

## February Panther Legacy Update:



February is Black History Month and big things have been happening all month. Please check our Homepage on [www.itsabouttimebpp.com](http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com) for more info and details. First of all, Huey's birthday was February 17<sup>th</sup> and he would have been 71 this year. RIP Huey.

The It's About Time Committee hosted Charlotte O'Neal on her Northern California tour. We always look forward to seeing Sister Charlotte and hearing news from her husband Pete, and what's been happening at UAACC (United African Alliance Community Center) where she and Pete work. Gail Shaw's son lives in Tanzania and works with Pete and Charlotte on a number of projects. Sister Charlotte stayed with us for over a week and was very busy. Gail helped plan events for her; arranging speaking engagements at a number of colleges in the Bay area. Charlotte spoke at SF State College, Merritt, Laney College and Cal State East Bay in Hayward. The Merritt college Black history event was well organized with students coming from junior high schools, high schools and different grade schools in Oakland.

It was a packed event, standing room only. We were glad to see so many young people attend. Sister Charlotte was also on the radio with Walter Turner's "Africa Today" and JR's Hard Knock morning show on KPFA radio.

Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> we held a showing of the new documentary "Mama C: Urban Warrior in the African Bush" in Sacramento. We had a nice crowd of people, and afterward we held a potluck at our home with about 30 people in attendance. People had a chance to ask Charlotte questions about her programs and music. Many of the people who attended had gone to Tanzania through It's about Time connections



Charlotte stayed 2 extra days to rest up before continuing her tour, so we were able to spend some quality time together. A bonus of having Charlotte here is that she communicates with Brother Pete daily, demonstrating that after 40 years, their love is still going strong.

Comrade John Scott passed away last month and his service was held in Oakland on February 21st. John joined the Party in Oakland in 1968 and was involved in the April 6<sup>th</sup> shootout. He was in the car with Little Bobby Hutton that night when Lil Bobby was killed by Oakland Police.

Last month I attend the funeral service for Ronald “Doc” Satchel, formerly of the Illinois BPP Chapter located in Chicago. Doc was a leader there and he ran the Spurgeon Jake Winters Medical Clinic, serving the People body and soul. He introduced Sickle Cell testing to Chicago, provided sickle cell education in the community, and tested

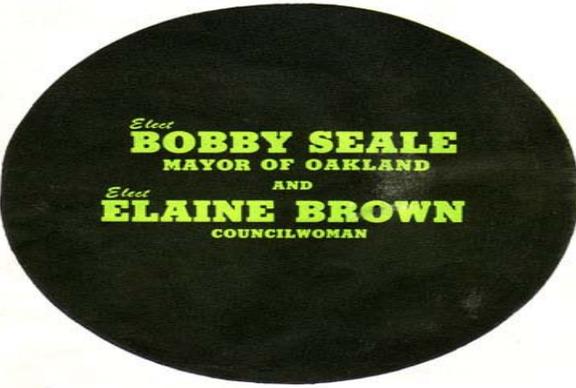


people in the projects. The clinic was a model for other BPP clinics that would follow. Doc was also wounded in the attack by police on Fred Hampton’s

apartment in Dec 1969. He was an outstanding Panther and set the correct examples to follow. I attended his funeral service in Fairfield California, which is about 35 miles from my home in Sacramento. Sister Ann and Michael attended from the Illinois office and Emory attended. I spoke at the service and brought a copy of "The Murder of Fred Hampton" which has Doc being interviewed in it. I gave a copy to his nieces who had never seen it.

Party History: February 2013 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> yr. since Bobby Seale was in the run off for Mayor of Oakland. I remember all the work that went into the campaign. To me this was the single greatest leap that really changed Oakland's political structure. I was a section leader in that campaign. I ran Bobby Seale's main Campaign office and there were 5 others offices in Oakland.

**MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT  
ON APRIL 17TH  
ELECT TWO DEMOCRATS!**



**CAMPAIGN OFFICES IN OAKLAND NEAR YOU:**

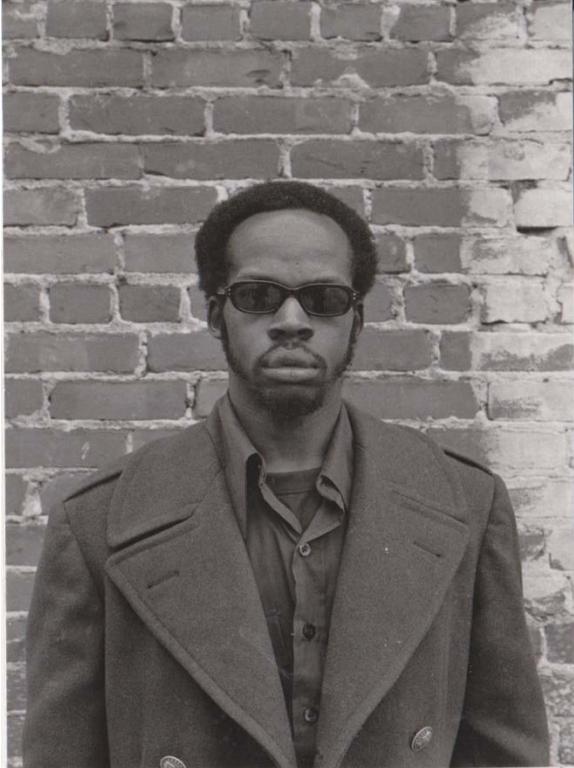
493-62nd Street 658-8193	4421 Grove Street 658-9547	2100 Market Street 763-5629
5229 East 14th Street 536-1420	601-98th Avenue 632-1605	8129 MacArthur Blvd. 636-0840

I had a Great staff made up of Party members and community workers. My staff included Robin

Hart, Vanetta Molson, Karimu, William Cloud, Louis Tex Johnson, Mike Ellis and Arlene Coleman. My office was at 5229 East 14<sup>th</sup> St. We turned out the vote big time. Community worker Barbara Lee, now Congressperson Barbara Lee, worked out of my office and she will tell you where she really learned how to do precinct work. She was a hard worker.



Remembering Fred Bennett is an article I wrote and placed on the homepage of our website about Fred Bennett, who was killed by COINTELPRO. His body was found February 1971 in the Santa Cruz

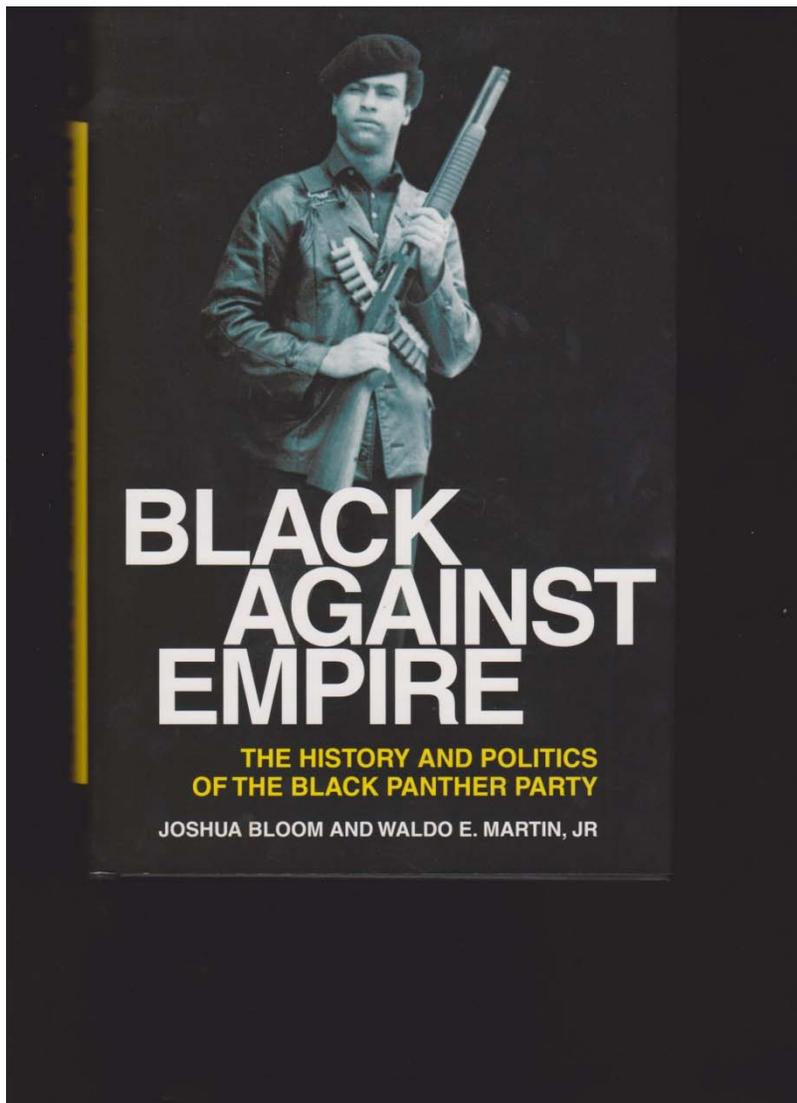


mountains. The article also points out that I met Fred's younger sister Ann and gave her some photos of Fred from our archives that the family really loves. I'm now

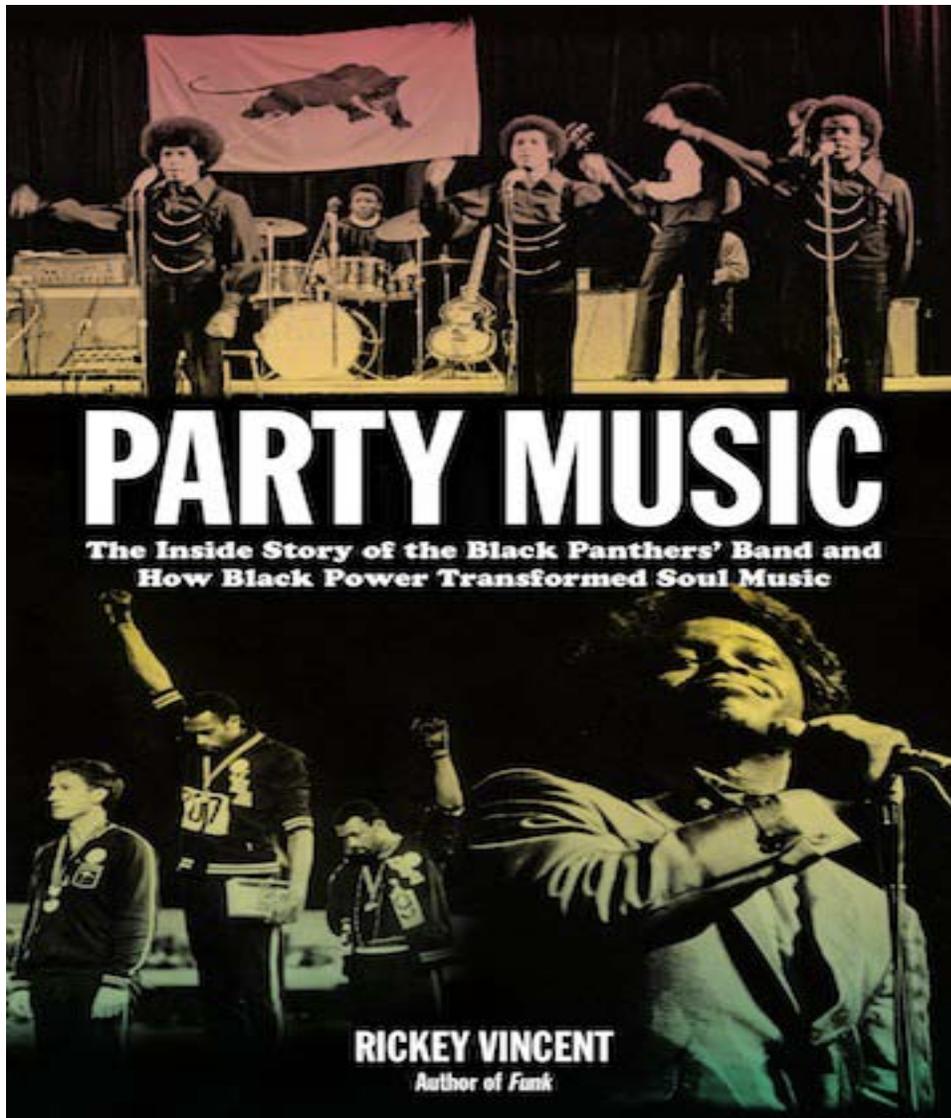
friends with Fred's son on Facebook. They were glad to meet someone who knew Fred.

#### New Books:

Black Against Empire by Josh Bloom and W. Martin. I haven't reviewed the book, but have talked to Josh a number of times about the book. I have the book thanks to Josh. A review will be coming soon.



New book Coming:



DJ, professor and musical historian, Rickey Vincent has been hard at work on his book called “Party Music” about the Lumpen, the BPP singing group and the music of the 1960’s and 1970’s. He has been to Sacramento a number of times to check our archives and I speak to him weekly about the project. He says the book is due out this fall.

The Levinsons of Berkeley:

Cec and Saul Levinson of the Berkeley National Committee to Combat Fascism and the Huey P. Newton Defense Committee have both been

suffering with health problems. Last year Cec had a stroke and was in rehab for a number of weeks. Gail and I went to visit her. Saul is recuperating from foot surgery.

The Levinson family is a part of our legacy going back to 1968. Cec, Eldridge Cleaver and Melvin Newton (Huey's brother) founded the Huey P. Newton Defense committee in 1968. Many Panthers knew Saul from Jr high school in West Oakland. Saul taught math at Lowell Jr. High for many years, which many Panthers from W. Oakland attended when they were younger. The Levinsons opened up a community center in W. Berkeley and worked with the W. Berkeley branch of the BPP run by John Turner. Cec Levinson and the NCCF were instrumental in getting 15,000 signatures to place the Community Control of Police Petition on the ballot in 1971. Gail worked on that project when she worked at the NCCF. For the first time in national history, the community had a choice in helping form police policy.

The Levinson's oldest son David worked with the Party also and was a member of the Lumpen band, playing the saxophone. David also went to China in 1972 with the BPP delegation led by Emory Douglas and Ray Masai Hewitt. David's younger brother, Steven drew the Community Control of Police campaign poster at age 12.

Cec and Gail were sent to the Midwest in 1971 by the Central Committee to organize NCCF's in the white communities. They traveled to St. Louis, Cleveland, Toledo and Chicago doing Party work.

They are close friends of It's About Time members and I have known them for years. We communicate often and they even donated some great pieces of our history to our archives. They donated the first issue of the BPP newspapers, about 30 original Panther buttons and articles and media coverage about Community Control of Police.

## Video History Project:

After many years of talking about it, members of It's About Time will launch a BPP Video History Project. We will record members of the BPP and community workers telling their stories and histories. This program is well overdue. We will start recording members in May of this year. You will be hearing more about this soon.

Billy X