

# Young Writers To Promote Non-violence in Atlanta

By Edwin Okong'o  
Staff Writer

A visit to the King Center in Atlanta, Ga., can significantly change one's life, according to Eric Braziel. And that is why he came up with an innovative fundraising idea so young disadvantaged Bay Area residents can make the trip.

In 2002, Braziel and his wife, Stephanie, visited the official living memorial dedicated to the advancement of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They witnessed young people from other parts of the country learning the importance of non-violence, which is advocated at the center, he said.

"I could see it in the young people's faces that they had been transformed," said Braziel.

Upon returning to Oakland, Braziel decided to use Just Using Gospel Entertainers (JUG-E), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting non-violence that he had founded a few years earlier, to help Bay Area youths visit The King Center.

Braziel came up with a contest idea and named it "On the Wings of the Dream."

To raise money for the trip to Atlanta, JUG-E organizes local family events. One was a bowling event dubbed

"Bowling for Life" that took place last Saturday at the Holiday Bowl in Hayward. Young people who had heard about the contest showed up to apply for the trip and bowl. Contest winners will also visit Clark Atlanta University and Morehouse College to enable them to interact with other young people from similar backgrounds who are pursuing higher education.

Bay Area young people aged 15 to 20 entered in the contest must submit a 300-word essay on the importance of non-violence, which was King's legacy. Five judges will read the essays and pick 20 winners for the paid two-day trip to Atlanta at the end of August.

Fatima Hopkins, a 15-year-old student at Mt. Eden High School in Hayward, says she is likely to be a contest winner because she is a good writer. After graduating from high school, she intends to go to San Jose State University and study aviation to become a commercial pilot. Should she win, the trip to The King Center and the two colleges will be very inspiring as she works toward her goal.

"I think it will be a good experience," she said.

Another young woman at the bowling alley was 17-year-old Terrell Williams, a student at Granada High School in Livermore. Like Hopkins, Williams said she is a good writer and hopes to win the trip too.

"I am going to write a really good essay," said Williams.

JUG-E will also hold a free five-choir fundraising concert event at 7:30 p.m. August 6 at the Love Center Church, a non-denominational Christian ministry in Oakland. The offerings and donations will benefit "On the Wings of the Dream." A midnight bowling fundraising event at Holiday Bowl will follow later that night.

"We want them to meet young people who have chosen higher education over violence," said Cseneca Parker of Embracing the Dream, a non-profit organization formed by the East Bay Community Law Center to promote non-violence and healthy living in communities.

Parker's experience at the law center working with young people who had lost members of their families to either violence or prisons prompted him to dedicate his time to educating youth

about non-violence. For the past four years, Embracing the Dream has sponsored organizations like JUG-E in their efforts to reduce violence in local communities.

"The best resource for us is us," said Parker.

Parker said he hopes the young people on the trip will be motivated by college students to seek higher education. He looks forward to their coming back with a whole new positive view

about themselves.

"We want them to trade stories [with college students] and realize that it is possible for them to become scientists, for instance," Parker said.

On the Wings of the Dream has received support from local politicians such as Congresswoman Barbara Lee of the 9th Congressional District, as well as Mayor Jerry Brown of Oakland.

"I believe 'On the Wings of the Dream' can play a significant

role in the futures of our children by assisting at-risk youth and college-bound students," said Lee in a letter to Braziel last month.

Brown wrote a few days later that the program promises not only to focus its young attendees on academic success, but also to build personal pride and integrity.

Braziel's plan has also received support from local sponsors including radio station KMEL, Black Cherub, and Vital Music Group.

## Those Who Play Can Also Teach

By Masaho Ninomiya  
Staff Writer

Student percussionist Dan Rugani is not your everyday musician — in fact, he just entered Cal State Hayward's teaching credential program.

But the CSUH graduate student, who just received his degree in music, played traditional and unique percussion music earlier this month that showed off his talents, not just as a musician, but as a potential teacher.

His two-hour performance on July 10 at CSUH's recital hall in the music building was the culmination of his degree.

His recital was divided into two

parts — the first half consisting of six classic pieces and the second portion containing contemporary music and jazz.

Rugani's performance was relaxed, friendly, playful and sometimes made the audience laugh. During the other half of the performance, he used plastic bottles to play drums. Afterwards, he walked around with drumsticks to hit music stands, chairs and the floor — all to a perfect beat.

It was as if he were saying anything could be an instrument.

"Originality is crucial in music," said Rugani. "It is ok to learn to play like someone or write music like someone else, but at some point to be successful you need to be original and creative."

According to recent CSUH graduate Robert Schoen, the recital was part of the requirements for the degree and the performer was required to cover both classic and contemporary music.

Schoen, who has played with

Rugani, describes Rugani's music as "thoughtful, sensitive ... with (a) sense of dynamics."

Rugani started playing percussion when he was 7. When he was a seventh-grader, he began playing in school bands as well as a jazz band, where he said many great teachers influenced him.

After playing in the symphonic band and jazz bands for three years while attending Santa Rosa Junior College, Rugani transferred to CSUH and joined its symphonic band, wind ensemble and jazz band. As a band member, he took two tours with the jazz ensemble and went to Brazil in 2001 and Europe in 2003.

Rugani encourages students to attend recitals and concerts at CSUH and hear all the ensembles.

The CSUH music department holds concerts and recitals several times a month, and all students and faculty recitals are free and open to the public. For future concert information, call the Music Resource Center at (510) 885-3167.

## Pioneer 'Twelfth Night' Dedicated to dela Cruz

By Shatiqua Purifoy  
Staff Writer

Although Edgardo dela Cruz didn't live to see Friday night's opening for his adaptation of "Twelfth Night," which was dedicated to the beloved Cal State Hayward director and professor, friends and cast agreed that he was alive in the movements of the performers.

The adaptation of the Shakespearean play, "Twelfth Night," is a satirical play about love — long devotional love, grieving love, sudden infatuation, self-love, loyal love, love for the sake of fortune and finally, true love. The play pokes fun at the pains of love in all of its forms.

In keeping with a famous dela Cruz saying — "don't be boring," Cast B of "Twelfth Night" gave a comical performance that kept the audience laughing from scene to scene. The chemistry of the cast

made each character seem like an original.

"He believed the actor was the strongest part of the play," said Sean Roberts, who played Malvolio, of the mourned professor.

Roberts recalled how dela Cruz would encourage ensembles and not just individuals.

"He is in our movements," Roberts added, a sentiment shared by the dela Cruz family.

"I could see our uncle's movements," said Tess Cardenas, niece of dela Cruz. Cardenas affirmed that dela Cruz would have been "thrilled" about the show.

Jun dela Cruz, who called Edgardo his brother even though they were cousins, didn't arrive in time for his brother's memorial. Jun admitted that his brother always said that he didn't want to have a wake or a memorial, so he credited dela Cruz with keeping

him from arriving in time for either ceremony.

"I know it was him," Jun said about the cause for the numerous flight delays he experienced en route to California from Philadelphia.

"I think he was mad at me," Jun said, "for not following his wishes."

Jun added that the Twelfth

Night performance was "typical Edgardo."

It was obvious through the play that dela Cruz was a man with a sense of humor, his brother Jun agreed.

"Edgardo was always silly. One time he came out in a towel and started putting lotion on his legs and asked, 'Do I look pretty?'" said Jun.

### The Book Shop



New / Used Books • 44 years in Downtown Hayward

You're welcome to stop by and say hello and browse our over 40,000 titles, or give us a call if you can't. Our friendly, helpful staff will take your order for new books, most of which will arrive here within a week.

**BO**  
**OK** **s e n s e**  
Independent Bookstore for

1007 B St. 510-538-3943  
M-F 10-6 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 12-4

### BEST DISCOUNT CENTER! DURANT MARKETPLACE

CLOTHING • SHOES • JEWELRY  
• HOME FURNISHING • GIFTS  
• PHONICS • BEAUTY SUPPLIES • PERFUME  
• ELECTRONICS • CD'S & TAPES

Open 10am - 7pm. Open Sundays 11am - 6pm.  
Closed Tuesdays

10970 International Blvd. & Durant Ave  
Oakland, CA

# Every Body Needs Something.



Bally Total Fitness

## SAVE \$100 OFF

the price of a new membership

HAYWARD • 510-727-6778  
771 Jackson Street

\$100 Off the price of a 36-month passport or higher membership (excluding Passport Plus). Must present ad to receive discount. Expires 7/31/04. Discount code: 'JULY100'. An equal opportunity club. ©2004 Bally Total Fitness Corporation.

### Also Located In:

**SAN LEANDRO**  
567 Floresta Blvd.  
510-351-7579

**FREMONT**  
35630 Fremont Blvd.  
510-608-6230

**PLEASANT HILL**  
2316 Monument Ave.  
925-687-6931

**SAN JOSE**  
1570 Hamilton Ave.  
408-267-1900

**SAN JOSE**  
Capitol Expressway  
2920 Aborn Square  
408-223-4411

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
Oceanview Village  
3951 Alemany Blvd, Ste. 4001  
650-985-2400