

Artist Biography for Straight Out Scribes - Dr. V.S. Chochezi & Staajabu

Since 1991, Dr. V.S. Chochezi and Staajabu, a mother daughter poetry duo originally from Camden, NJ, now living in Sacramento, have self-published seven books of poetry, one Sci-fi Anthology, produced 2 spoken word CDs and produced poetry readings at Carol's Books, KINKS International and GOS Art Gallery Studios in Sacramento. They have made over 500 appearances as featured readers, speakers or presenters, panelists and workshop facilitators at poetry venues, forums, workshops, conferences, conventions, political forums, rallies, churches, festivals, schools, colleges, community programs, radio and television programs and events in Sacramento, the Bay Area and beyond. Their writings have appeared in publications too numerous to name. They recently produced spoken word series at the GOS Gallery Art Studio in North Sacramento for artists of all kinds titled "Creative Minds" the last Saturday each month from May 2019 through January, 2020 from 2-4 PM. Both are members of ZICA Creative Arts and Literary Guild.

Dr. V.S. Chochezi, is a college professor having earned a BA from Delaware State College, an MA from CSUS Sacramento and a doctorate in Education from Drexel University in Sacramento. She is a writer, poet, editor, mosaic artist and photojournalist.

Staajabu is a writer, editor, producer, poet, health advocate, graphic artist, Air Force veteran, UC Davis retiree and serves on the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission.

Extensive Biographical Data

Performed as featured artists, poets, writers, speakers or workshop coordinators at the following events open to the public. Does not include private events such as weddings, memorial services, graduations, anniversaries or birthday celebrations.

5/16/2021 Coffee and Poets Interview w/Staajabu @ Brick House Art Gallery - Bob Stanley & NSAA Hosts, Sac. CA

5/6/2021 Terry Moore - Poetry Program - Mothers Day- Sacramento

3/28/2021 Friends of the Congo, Atlanta, GA - African Women's HERstories - Olori Kambon, Zoom

3/22/2021 Sacramento Poetry Center - Socially Distant Verse - host Angela J. James - Sacramento, CA

2/25/2021 Deep Roots; the journey of Black hair - VS Chochezi - Calif. Black Womens Health Project on Zoom

2/5/2021 Magnum Opus art and poetry - Sacramento Art Center - Original Poems written to art pieces - on Zoom

1/14/2021 Poetry Jam: the Afrofuturist Edition - SF Public Library - Staajabu - hosted by Kim McMillon on Zoom

12/30/2020 Kwanzaa Program by WOSE' Community Church of Sacramento on Zoom

12/19/2020 "Bira - Healing our community & family" Zoom Program by Chike C. Nwoffiah of Silicon Valley African Film Festival, San Jose, CA - Zoom Program

12/13/2020 Afro-futurism & the Black Speculative Arts Program by Kim McMillon of San

Francisco - Staajabu - Zoom

11/12/2020 Dia de Los Muertos Poetry Program @ Lunas Cafe, coordinated by Vince Kobelt - ZOOM

10/17/2020 California State University Sacramento, Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution, Featured poets for Award Program for honorees with Danny Glover as keynote - ZOOM

9/12/20 Sean King Fundraiser, for activist poet, virtual featured presenters at The Brick House Art Gallery, Sac., CA

8/18/20 Summer Youth Employment, virtual presenters on journaling, poetry & Healing, Lisa Daniels, Sac. CA

7/19/20 WOSE' Community Church featured virtual presenters for 35th Anniversary Program via ZOOM

7/16/20 Roberts Family Development Center virtual poetry for their Wednesday children's program via ZOOM

3/25/20 Wanda Sabir's "Wanda's Picks" Radio Program discussion of "Caledonia's Daughters, Oakland, CA via ZOOM

2/16/20 Crocker Museum Black History Month Family Festival, emcees for Ballroom stage, Sacramento, CA

1/25/20 "Creative Minds" Close-out Celebration, with SOS and Gerry Simpson @ GOS Gallery, Sacramento

10/25/19 "Crocker Poetry Night" feature for "When I Remember I See Red" exhibit, Crocker Museum, Sac. CA

10/05/19 "Art Jazz and Poetry" featured readers of poems written to a work of art, set to music, performed before an audience - Sacramento Fine Arts Center in collaboration with Sacramento Poetry Center. Carmichael, CA

8/31/19 Harlem Renaissance, Sojourner Truth Museum, featured poets, Sacramento, CA

8/18/19 Humanist Hall, feature for Jeff Mackler for president kick-off, Oakland, CA

6/11/19 Oblivion Coffee and Comics, featured reader, Sacramento, CA

5/25/19 "Creative Minds" spoken word series launch @ GOS Art Gallery, Sacramento

5/09/19 Luna's Cafe, featured reader for "Poetry Unplugged" Sacramento

4/13/19 Cosumnes River College Writer's conference produced & facilitated "The Art of Word Weaving" Sac.

4/6/19 Mobilization for Mumia Abu-Jamal, SOS opened program featuring Alice Walker, Angela Davis, Pam Africa, Jeff Mackler and others with poetry @ St John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, CA

12/31/18 Crocker Museum, "Noon Year's Eve" featured poets, Sacramento

11/19/18 Robert's Family Development Center produced & facilitated Anxiety Reduction Wkshp for staff, Sac.

10/6/18 Sojourner Truth Museum, Wakanda Day, featured poets, Sacramento

10/3/18 Crocker Art Museum produced and facilitated "Artfully Told" storytelling workshop" for docents, Sac.

7/20/18 Crocker Art Museum - produced & facilitated "Creative Outlets" Workshop for Block by Block, Sac.

6/7/18 KUBU Access Sacramento Radio 96.5 "Because People Matter" w/JoAnn Fuller,

6/1-6/30/18 Family Art Exhibit - "Legacy", Sacramento Poetry Center, Sacramento, Ca
6/1/18 Sacramento Black Book Fair, Featured Authors, Sacramento, CA
5/31/18 Guests of Beth Ruyak of INSIGHT CAP public radio prior to Sacramento Black Bok Fair -
90.9 FM Sac
5/19/18 Uptown Arts Fest at Roberts Family Development Center, MC's and Features,
Sacramento
4/28/18 Sierra Nevada Poetry Festival, Main Stage, Sierra College, Grass Valley, Ca
4/28/18 Sierra Nevada Poetry Festival, produced & facilitated "Release" stress relief wkshop
Grass Valley, CA
4/27/18 The Open Book, 671 Maltman Drive, Grass Valley, Ca
2/23/18 UC Davis School of Medicine,SNMA Candlelight Dinner, Sac Ca
2/18/18 Celebration Arts Theater, Conversations with Artists, Sac Ca
2/18/18 Crocker Museum, Black & Beautiful Marketplace, Sac Ca
2/12/18 Sac Access KUBU Radio w/JoAnn Fuller, Coloma Center, Sac Ca
11/18/17 Sac Access KUBU Radio w/Charlene Jones, Coloma Center, Sac Ca
11/09/17 Crocker Art Museum Art Mix Guest Table/open mic, Sac Ca
06/11/17 Band vs Poets/NSAA, Gold Lion Arts, Sacramento, Ca
05/12/17 Open Book feature, Grass Valley, Ca
05/10/17 American River College, Eng. Class, Sacramento
04/29/17 Bobby Hutton Day Remembrance, feature, Oakland, Ca
04/15/17 Diva Market Anniversary feature, Carol's Books, Sac
03/11/17 Book Launch for "Caledonia's Daughters, Sacramento
02/24/17 Cannabis Forum/BAPAC, feature, 1020 11th St., Sacramento
01/28/17 Gold Lion Art Collective, feature, Riverside Ave., Sacramento
01/19/17 Luna's Cafe, feature, Sacramento
10/22/16 Women's Veterans Day, featured poets, Mather AFB, Rancho
9/16/16 Compassionate Action Event in Oak Park, by Joan Marie
8/29/16 Well Spring poetry reading by SPC, Sacramento
7/12/16 Sacramento Access TV w/JoAnn Fuller Coloma, Sac
6/4/16 Sacramento Black Book Fair
4/10/16 Local Authors Festival, Central Library, Sacramento
3/13/16 Enter The Orchid Center, Carmichael
2/25/16 National Women's History Month, Ancient Divine with Nubia Sutton, Sojourner Truth
Center, Sac
2/13/16 Writings on the Wall, Luna's Café, Sacramento
12/5/15 Sacramento Airs, Access Sacramento
10/30/15 Delta Sierra Middle School presentation, Stockton
10/17/15 Story included in Our Mothers Bold Brave and Beautiful released, Sacramento
10/11/15 Tahuti's Ball, La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley, Ca
9/12/15 Regis Bldg. James W. Sweeney and Associates present, Sacramento
9/10/15 Laugh's Unlimited, Vibe Night, Old Sacramento
7/19/15 Coffee and Poets guest host Dr. V.S. Chochezi interviewing Marianna Souza
7/12/15 Sacred Crowns, Tea and Conversation, Sacramento
6/22/15 Access Sacramento

6/6/15 Sacramento Black Book Fair, Brickhouse Art Gallery, Sac Ca
4/26/15 Open for Dr. Joy DeGruy lecture at 24th and Florin complex
4/19/15 Joe Montoya's Sacramento Poetry Unplugged at Luna's Cafe
3/21/15 North Sacramento Hagginwood Library, Sacramento
3/16/15 Women's Herstory Month, Sacramento Poetry Center, Sac
3/11/15 Cultural Awareness Center, Sacramento City College, Sac
2/28/15 1001 Del Paso Blvd. Art Gallery, Sacramento
2/26/15 KUBU 96.5 FM Radio Interview and Poetry, Sacramento
2/21/15 Mud Cloth Roots Release celebration, Soap Salon, Sac
2/11/15 Folsom Lake College, Folsom, CA
10/19/14 Guest interviewer, Coffee and Poets Podcast, Naked Lounge, Sacramento
9/21/14 Planet Oakland, Oakland, CA
9/21/14 La Palabra Musical, Café Leila, Oakland
6/11/14 Sol Collective, Foreign Native Poetry Series
2/20/14 American River College, College Hour, Sacramento
10/20/13 Coffee & Poets Discussion Series Podcasts Quarterly Host
6/19/13 Mahogany Poetry Series feature, Sacramento
5/4/13 Cosumnes River College, Writing Conference, workshop facilitator, for a live Audience, Sacramento
4/26/13 CSUS. 22nd Annual Africa Diaspora Conference, Ctr for African Peace & Conflict Resolution, Sac
4/16/13 Cosumnes River College, Literary Poetry Series, Sac
4/1/13 Queen Sheba Restaurant, Hairitage Book & CD release, Sac
3/22/13 Eastside Arts Alliance Chokwe Lumumba Fundraiser, Oakland, CA
3/19/13 Sacred Crowns, Grand Opening, Sacramento
2/19/13 Brickhouse Gallery, Open Mic, Scribes feature, Sacramento
2/13/13 Brickhouse Gallery, 3 Kings Show, Sacramento
1/12/13 Sacramento Poet's Gallery, Milton 510 Bowens exhibit, Sac
3/2/12 Writings on the Wall, at the Soap Salon, Sacramento
2/28/12 California State Capitol Art Exhibit, "Family... Those We Love" Reception
2/23/12 Sacramento Poetry Center Literary Lectures, Poetry Collaborations
2/14/12 Black History Month Poetic Voices, Cosumnes River College, Sacramento
1/27/12 Art Conversations at the Soap Salon, Sacramento
10/16/11 Featured Poet, Kuumba Collective Gallery, Sacramento
3/26/11 Featured poet, Phenomenal Women in Artz, Maiya Gallery, Sacramento
3/5/11 Women Continuing The Legacy of Achievement, Carol's Books, Sacramento
5/14/08 Poets Against War-Sacramento Area Peace Action
8/1/08 Fostering HOPE Leadership Conference, Sacramento
11/14/07 Sacramento City College, Cultural Awareness Center
11/27/07 Sol Collective Art Gallery, The Social, Sacramento
11/30/06 Samuel Kennedy Elementary School, Teachers' Meeting, Sac
04/12/06 Rattlesnake Press Anniversary, The Book Collector, Sac
03/18/06 Poetry, Spoken Word fundraiser, Palo Alto, CA
02/26/06 International House, Storytelling Festival, Davis, California

02/08/06 Highland High English classes, Sacramento
01/16/06 Sacramento Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance, Sacramento Convention Center
6/14/05 Reflections Mirror Image Books, Portland, OR – Obi Hill, Coor.
6/14/05 Indy Radio interview and performance, Portland, OR – Contagious, Coor.
6/13/05 Laughing Horse Books, Portland, OR – Dominic, Coor
6/12/05 Border's Books Corvallis, OR, Black Poet's Society of OSU/Be Herrera, Coor
05/20/05 H2O Jam – Latte Lounge – Stockton, CA, Brotha Derek, Coor.
05/07/05 Whole Earth Festival – Davis, CA – UC Davis WHF Committee, Coor.
04/29/05 Pan African Night – Sacramento City College – Victoria Henderson, Coor.
04/27/05 Ramona Africa Presentation – KINKS Int'l – Bro. Raekwon, Coor.
04/16/05 Capital City Artists Collective – Sacramento – Terry Guilford, Coor.
04/16/05 Bobby Hutton Day – Bobby Hutton Park, Oakland, CA – Bill Jennings, Coor.
04/10/05 Crocker Museum – Freedom Faire – Material Differences Exhibit – Emma Moore, Coor.
04/08/05 Freedom Archives Fundraiser – Sacramento – Claude Marks, Coor, Sac.
04/02/05 Rant-a-thon, Read-a-thon – poetry reading and art exhibit, KINKS Int'l – Scribes, Coor, Sac
03/18/05 Women's Health Ldershp Proj. Graduation - Sierra Health Foundation, Heather Hutchinson, Sac
02/26/05 Anarchist Café, Washington Neighborhood Center – 16th & D St. - Sacramento
02/12/05 CD Release Celebration for "Priorities" 26 track CD – Carol's Books – Scribes, Coor
02/11/05 Tell A Vision – Poetry Reading – Red Square – Alhambra Blvd – Preston, Coor
01/29/05 The Show – Poetry Reading – Wo'se Community Center – Terry Moore, Coor, Sac
01/17/05 Sacramento Poetry Center Martin Luther King observance – Heather Hutchison, Coor
12/26/04 Kwanzaa Program – Umoja – 2000+ Bookstore, Long Beach, CA, Marie, Coor.
12/20/04 KPFA Radio Berkeley, Scribes unveil new CD Transitions on Traditions Program w/Gregg Bridges
12/08/04 Kwanzaa Program & canned food drive – Robertson Community Center – Sigma Gamma Rho, Coor
11/19/04 Mumia and the MOVE 9 – Speaker and Discussion - Robertson Center – Raekwon, Coor, Sac
10/10/04 Speak Out For Change – Rally on Capital Steps – Maggie Coulter, Coor, Sac
10/10/04 La Pena Cultural Center – Oakland – Freedom for Marilyn Buck – CD Release – Claude Marks, Coor
10/02/04 Women Take Back The Night – State Capital Steps - Sacramento
09/3&4/04 Sacramento Locks Festival – Sacramento Ballet Building – Straight Out Scribes, Coor
07/24/04 Patricity Presents – Poetry Reading – California diner – Patricia Green, Coor, Sacramento.
06/26/04 From The Sistah's To The Brotha's – Father's Day Reading – Carol's Books – Scribes, Coor, Sac
06/19/04 Juneteenth Celebration – Poetry Reading – Sweet Finger Restaurant – Khiry Malik Moore, Coor, Sac
06/19/04 Celebration of Expression - Art Exhibit Reception – Cascades Restaurant – Monica Crooks, Coor.

05/09/04 Crocker Museum Ballroom – Women In Art – Mother’s Day Program, Emma Moore, Coor

05/08/04 Whole Earth Festival – UC Davis – Whole Earth Festival Committee, Coor

05/01/04 Lawyers for the Arts Fundraiser – California State History Museum – Gail Shaw, Coor.

04/28/04 California Youth Authority Protest – State Capital – Books Not Bars/Freedom Bound Center, Coor.

04/17/04 Capital City Chapter Business & Professional Women – Regional Conference Dinner - Roseville

04/10/04 Circle of Poets Fundraiser – Sierra II - Gloria Graggs Crawford, Coor, Sac

04/03/04 Flor y Canto – Poetry Festival – Crest Café – host of open mic – Rheyra Halpern, Coor, Sac

03/27/04 Activists Alive – Music/Art Festival – Sierra II - Malika Madremana, Coor, Sacramento

03/27/04 Coalition of Labor Union Women Conference Lunch – Holidan Inn, Nell Ranta, Coor

03/06/04 Black Panther Photo Exhibit Recept. “Louder Than Words” – State Hist. Museum – B Jennings, Coor

02/27/04 African American Master’s of Jazz Black History Month Program – Fruitridge Comm Ctr.

02//22/04 Sacramento Voter’s Matinee – Ed Asner Hosts – CSUS Redwood Room, political coalition, coor

02/19/04 My Soul Is My Witness Reading– CalState Univ. – Women’s Resource Center – Xico Gonzales, Coor.

02/07/04 Women In Struggle – KINKS International, Sacramento – Sheba Haven, Coor.

12/05/03 UC Davis Student Kwanzaa Program – Silo Cabernet Room – John Ortiz Hutson, Coor.

11/15/03 Carol’s Books Grand Opening – 300 Florin Road - Straight Out Scribes Host – poetry and open mic

09/22/03 The MET School – Sacramento – English Class – Trisha, Advisor

09/19/03 Java House Poetry Reading – Lakeshore Drive, Oakland, CA – Gregg Bridges, Coordinator

09/10/03 Border’s Books, Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento – Jason Cudahy, Coordinator

08/23/03 Showcase Art Walk & Poetry Reading – Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center – Mary Wynn, Coor

06/28/03 Close Out Celebration for Poetry On A Saturday Afternoon – 10 Years - KINKS

05/28/03 Student Stewardship BBQ – SLEWS Program – Winters, CA, Dan Leroy, Coor

05/09/03 Blacks In Government Annual Conference – Doubletree Inn Sacramento– Gloria Robertson, Coor.

05/03/03 Business Professional Women’s Annual Conference – Bay Capital District

05/01/03 Julianna’s Kitchen – Tuesday Evening Reading – Sacramento Poetry Center

04/26/03 Jook Joynt – Poetry Extravaganza - Sierra II – Sacramento – Khiry Malik, Coor.

04/25/03 Chicks In Arms – YWCA Sacramento – Jessicah Pratt, Coor.

04/12/03 Auburn Peace Teach In – Auburn, CA – Teo Martinez, Coor.

03/15/03 The Davis All Gurl Review – Veteran’s Memorial Theater – Davis – Ellen Anderson, Coor.

03/09/03 Unitarian Church – Sierra Blvd. Sacramento – JoAnn Aglin, Coor.

03/05/03 Poets Against the War – State Capital Steps - Sacramento – Luke Breit, Coor

03/01/03 Sacramento Youth Cultural Exchange Program – Florin Creek Community Center, Karen Green Coor.

02/15/03 March For Peace – State Capital Steps - Sacramento

02/15/03 Northern California Writer’s Circle – Holiday Inn - Fairfield, CA – Danette Mitchell, Coor.

02/12/03 Hiram Johnson High School – English Classes – Jose Montoya

02/11/03 Sacramento City College – Multi-Cultural Center – Victoria Henderson

02/07/03 John Bidwell Elementary School – Sacramento – 5th Grade – Asa Salley

01/14/03 Julianna’s Kitchen – Sacramento – Sacramento Poetry Center Tuesday Night Reading

01/11/03 Human Rights Festival – Hart Senior Center – Sacramento – Grandmothers For Peace

12/27/02 Oak Park Kwanzaa – Sacramento – Sacramento Area Black Caucus

12/14/02 Blue Moon Café – 9105 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove – Poetry Meets Hip Hop, Anjoli, Coor.

11/27/02 Black Holiday Expo – Oakland Marriott Convention Center – Alkebulan Books, Shanette, Coor.

11/22/02 Book Signing and Reading – Scribes Rising – Luna’s Café – 1414 16th St. Sacramento

11/2/02 AAGRO Fundraiser for girl artists, Joes Style Shop – 19th & J Streets, Jessicah Pratt, Coordinator

11/2/02 Book Signing & Reading – Scribes Rising - Culture Collection – Florin Mall, Sacramento

10/27/02 Florin Mall Poetry Festival – Florin Mall, Sacramento, Terry Moor, Coordinator

10/19/02 Book Signing – Scribes Rising – KINKS International – 15th & G Streets, Sacramento

10/18/02 International Soul Series – Sierra II Theatre – Sacramento – Cleo Cartel/Khiry Malik Coor.

10/5/02 Women Take Back The Night – State Capital - Sacramento

9/27/02 Anti Racist Action Fundraiser – Espresso Metro, 11th & K Street, Sacramento, PJ, Coordinator

9/14/02 Marsupial Records, International Soul Series, 1011 K Street, Sacramento, Cleo Cartel, Coordinator

9/11/02 9/11 For Peace Rally and Demonstration on the Capitol Steps – Central America Action, Coor.

9/7/02 McClatchy Park Back to School Festival – Sacramento – Brenda Lee, Coordinator

8/17/02 5th Annual Art Walk & Poetry Reading – Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center, Simi Valley, CA

8/14/02 Borders Books – Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento – Jason Cudahy, coordinator

7/27/02 Art & Soul Festival – 50th Ann. Celebration – LINKS of Sacramento, CSUS, Maxine Philips, coor.

7/20/02 Tower Books – Watt Avenue – Sacramento – Terry Moor, Coordinator

6/28/02 Jewel of the Valley Series – Tillies Coffee & Tea Shop – Lodi, CA – Jim Harvey, Coordinator

6/8/02 Doors & Windows Art & Poetry – Mandela Gardens – 15th & Q St. Sacramento, Trenton, Coordinator

6/5/02 Mahogany series – Jamaican Restaurant – 1704 Broadway – Sacramento – Khiry Malik Coordinator

5/30/02 Po-Hop poetry series – Cheers – Franklin & Broadway – Sacramento – Cornel West

Coordinator

5/29/02 Celebrating Women's Health – Golden State Museum – 10th and O Streets, Sacramento

5/11/02 San Francisco Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal – Civic Center – San Francisco

4/26/02 Washington Center fund raiser at Hart Senior Center 27th & J Streets, Sacramento

4/11/02 Luna's Café – 16th & O – Poetry Unplugged – Sacramento

3/8/02 Natomas High School English Class – Sacramento – Nathan Manley Coordinator

2/10/02 St. Francis Senior Resident Center – 2515 J Street – Brother Matthew Coordinator

1/22/02 Discovery High School 6 English Classes – 8am – 1pm - Sacramento

1/12/02 Consequence Program – Mama Bears Bookstore – Oakland, CA

1/1/02 Imani Kwanzaa Program – Events Bldg., 2nd Ave. – Jan Hollens – Sacramento

12/9/01 Sacramento Through African Eyes – Poetry Reading and Calendar Signing, Carols Books, Sacramento

12/8/01 Festival of Human Rights – Hart Senior Center, Sacramento

12/8/01 Sacramento Through African Eyes – Reception & Photo Exhibit – KINKS International, Sacramento

11/10/01 Urban Herbalist – 2nd Saturday Art Walk, Sacramento

11/1/01 Alice Arts Center – Café 1428 Freejahlove reading – Oakland, CA – Paradise, coordinator

10/20/01 Women's Health Leadership project – Sheraton Grande Hotel, Sacramento, Heather Hutchinson, Sac

10/13/01 KVIE Channel 6 – Special Program – Word!, directed by Sheila Butcher-Smith, Sacramento

10/03/01 Froz 'N Lox Entertainment - 1831 Club - 1831 S Street - Sacramento

6/19/01 Juneteenth Dinner - Sam Pannell Community Center - Black United Fund Sacramento

6/2/01 Tower Books, Watt & El Camino, Sacramento, Terry Moore, coordinator

6/1/01 Women Take Back The Night - Central Park - Davis, CA

5/29/01 Women of the World Poetry Reading - UC Davis Student Union, Davis, CA

5/21/01 Legacy of Oral Tradition - Sacramento High School Auditorium, Sacramento, Yaya, coord.

5/10/01 Lecture by Manning Marable at Coloma Community Center, Sacramento, John Roundtree, coor.

4/21/01 Poetry Works Poetry Month Festival – Pioneer Auditorium, 29th & L Streets, Sacramento

4/20/01 Pan African Night, Sacramento City College, Sacramento

4/3/01 Fundraiser for "It's About Time", Clunie Club House, McKinley Park, Sacramento, Bill Jennings, coor.

3/14/01 LaPena Café, Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA, Joyce Fuller, coordinator

2/21/01 Luna's Café, Diabetes Fundraiser, 16th & O Streets, Sacramento, Pauline Haynes, coordinator

2/3/01 Tower Books, Watt & El Camino, Sacramento

1/16/01 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Memorial Union, UC Davis, Davis, CA

1/11/01 Crocker Museum - Walter O. Evans Collection - 3rd & O Streets – Sacramento,

12/2/00 Himovitz Gallery – 1616 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento, Felecia McGee, coordinator

10/11/00 Borders Books - "Word Power" - Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento, Be Herrera, coordinator
10/7/00 African American Holistic Health Conference - Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, Elan Bomani, Coor.
10/7/00 MAAFA Commemoration Ceremony, Alice Arts Center, Oakland, CA
10/9/00 Sacramento Poetry Center 17th and K Streets, Sacramento, CA – Monday night series
8/27/00 Radical Women's Annual Women's Rights Day Celebration, Valencia Hall, San Francisco, CA
7/31/00 Sacramento Urban League - Re-entry Program - Broadway Bldg., Sacramento, CA, Bill Carr, coor
6/19/00 Sacramento County Department of Health - Juneteenth Celebration, H Street, Sacramento
5/20/00 Marxist School Kick-off, Sierra II Community Center, Sacramento, CA, John Roundtree, coor.
5/6/00 Northern California Dreadlock Conference, Pannell Community Center, Sacramento
4/24/00 Women's Health Conference, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, Elan Bomani, coordinator
4/22/00 Third Annual Bobby Hutton Day Memorial, Defemery Park, Oakland, CA, Billie X & Gail Shaw, coor.
4/22/00 Tower Books Poetry Series, Watt Ave., Sacramento
3/5/00 U.C. Davis Black Family Day fundraiser, Nile Valley restaurant, Davis, Ca
3/1/00 California State University - Shugah Shack Poetry Program, Sacramento
2/9/00 California State Dept. of Transportation - Black History Month Program, Sacramento
2/5/00 Chocolate Chunk Funk Festival - Washington Center - Sacramento
11/17/99 Well Springs Series, Barnes and Noble, Arden Mall, Sacramento
11/6/99 Sacramento International Poetry Festival, California State University Sacramento, Sacramento
9/27/99 Sacramento Reads Festival, K Street Mall, Sacramento
9/5/99 Reggae Festival - McClatchy Park, Sacramento
3/4/99 Luna's Café, 16 & O Streets, Sacramento, Joe Montoya, coordinator
2/15/99 Sacramento Poetry Center, 17th and K Streets, Sacramento, Luke Breit, coordinator
1/30/99 Political Prisoner Conference, U.C. Berkeley Paulie Ballroom, Berkeley, Ca
11/22/98 Common Unity - KBMB Radio, 103.5, Sacramento
5/9/98 Whole Earth Festival, U.C. Davis, Davis, CA
4/10/98 The Palms Playhouse, Davis, CA
3/8/98 Opened Program for Iyanla Vanzant at Sacramento City College, Sacramento
10/5/97 Art and Soul Festival of Black Folklore, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento
9/14/97 Evolving Times Expo, Convention Center, Sacramento
4/19/97 Rhythm Matters Music Emporium, Santa Rosa, CA
1/9/97 National Negro College Fund Telethon & Fundraiser, Pannell Center, Sacramento
9/2/96 Chalk It Up To Sacramento, Fremont Park, Sacramento, Angie Coleman, coordinator
5/25/96 African Liberation Day, McClatchy Park, Sacramento
5/10/96 LaRaza Galleria Posada, 8th and O Streets, Sacramento
12/27/95 Black United Fund Kwanzaa Celebration, Oak Park Community Center, Sacramento
2/12/95 Federal Women's Prison, Black History Month program, Dublin, CA
1/14/95 Protesting Violence Against Women Living War - Delta Of Venus Café, Davis, CA

1/6/95 Cable Access TV program - "One on One" Producer, Natalie Evans, Sacramento
8/22/92 Creative Images, Book Signing for "Crucial Comments & Vicious Verses, Sacramento, CA
7/92 Celebration Arts, Art & Soul Festival of Black Folklore, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, CA

Self-Published Books of Poetry:

Copyright 2017 Caledonia's Daughters, 57 pages - Sci-Fi anthology of short, short stories, ISBN #9781537512525

Copyright 2015 Mud Cloth Roots Poetry Anthology, 160 pages - ISBN# 9781507592694

Copyright 2002 Scribes Rising Anthology, 175 pages – ISBN #0-9642340-5-X,

Copyright 2001 African Reflections, 21 pages read at Crocker Art Museum, ISBN #9781500648572 (reprint 2014)

Copyright 1997 Taking Names and Pointing Fingers - 151 pages - ISBN #0-9642340-3-3

Copyright 1994 This Queendom Come - 71 pages - ISBN # 0-9642340-0-9

Copyright 1993 BAMM! - 30 pages - ISBN #0-9642340-1-7

Copyright 1991 Crucial Comments and Vicious Verses - 21 pages - ISBN #0-9642340-2-5

Published in the following PUBLICATIONS: "Because People Matter" March/April 2005, "It's About Time" newsletter, March 2004, "Poetry Now" January 2002, "Because People Matter" January 2002, "Because People Matter" March/April 2001, "Harambee Flame" March 2001, "It's About Time" Summer 2000, "UC Davis African American Quarterly" June 1996, "BLU Magazine" August 1999, "Zamani" Spring 1999, "Crossroads" April, 1998, "Poetry Now" 1997, "New Poets Revolution" 1995

ANTHOLOGIES: Poetry, essays and short stories by Straight Out Scribes Published in the following

"Voices 2020" - Dreams, Desires and Delusions Anthology, published by Bob Doyle Cold River Press, September 2020

"The ZICA Collective" ZICA Creative Arts Anthology, 2016,

"Our Black Mothers" Brave Bold & Beautiful, Sept. 2015, Five Sisters Publishing,

"Poems for All" Beauty, August, Daisy Chains, Tree Stories - tiny books, by Richard 2015

"Cosumnes River Journal", Spring 2014, Vol 8,

"Therefore We Write" The ZICA Creative Arts Anthology, 2012

"Speak Write Dream", ZICA Creative Arts Anthology, 2010

"Cosumnes River Journal" Spring 2009, Vol. 3

"Rattlesnake Interview Anthology Series", May, 2009, Rattlesnake Press

"Sierra Journal" 2008/2009, Sierra College Creative Writing Program

"Our Black Fathers", Brave, Bold & Beautiful, 2008, Five Sisters Publishing

"Rattlesnake Review" #10, Summer 2006, Interview by JoAnn Anglin

"When You Walk, Littlesnake Broadside #22 from Rattlesnake Press, 2006

Keepin' it Real, Littlesnake Broadside #23 Rattlesnake Press, 2006

"Artists Against Rape Anthology," June 2005

"Drum Voices" August 2005.

"Peace is a Way" Circle of Friends anthology, 2004

Sugar: poems, prayers and psalms" 2000

"Looking for Home" 2000

"Children of the Dream", Growing Up Black in America, 1999, Laurel Holliday

"Death & Transformation" 1994

"Bringing Hope to a Hopeless World" 1993

"Rivers: Dreams of the 21st Century" 1993

"Equinox Calendar" 1993

CD Compilations

CD Release: February 2005 – "Priorities" written and produced by Straight Out Scribes mixed and recorded by Will Prince, Sacramento, CA – 26 tracks with music and original poetry.

CD Release: April 2000 – "Mind Quake" written and produced by Straight Out Scribes, mixed and recorded by Ed Anderson of Mindseed Entertainment, 15 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, CA; 10 original poems with music.

Programs produced, coordinated and moderated by Straight Out Scribes:

May 25, 2019 - January 25, 2020, "Creative Minds" A spoken word series for artists of all kinds with a focus on creativity and highlighting the North Sacramento business district on Del Paso Blvd. Family friendly, fun and free to all ages.

June 9, 2018 Exhibit opening reception for "Legacy: A 4 generational family art show." The public is invited to take a creative journey with Staajabu (graphic arts) and Dr. V.S. Chochezi (mosaic arts) along with work from family members Jessa Ciel (fine art photography), Billy Ward (stencil art), Tisho Ward (mixed media), the Ward children (mixed media) and introducing Areyana Jones (paint on canvas). Admission is FREE. Art exhibited for one month.

October 2015 - May 2016, "Senior Readers Speak": A monthly gathering of all ages with a focus on Seniors with a feature presenter and all-senior open-mic @ GOS Art Gallery Studios in Del Paso Heights, last Saturday of each month.

Sept. 3&4 2004 Sacramento Locks Festival "In Celebration of our Natural Hair" – Sacramento Ballet Building, speakers, vendors, demonstrations, Friday kick-off and Reggae Dance Party 7-10. Saturday vendors and programs from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sacramento Ballet Building, 17th and K Streets

1995 - 2003 "Poetry On A Saturday Afternoon" – A MONTHLY family reading, the last Saturday, September – June, featuring local poets, refreshments, door prizes, community announcements and open mic

Oct. 19, 2002 Live Arts Marketplace – with artists as vendors, storytelling, music & food – KINKS, International, 15th and G Streets, 12 Noon – 6 P.M., Sacramento.

May 19, 2001 Poetry Workshop – "How to Organize a Poetry Reading" for California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Poetry Convention 2001

Dec. 8, 2001 Sacramento Through African Eyes – Photo Exhibit and 16 month calendar – KINKS International 15th and G Streets – Exhibit ran for 2 months.

January 11, 2001 – 7-9 P.M. - Produced and performed a one-hour program at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Sacramento, for Walter O. Evans Collection of African American Art as part of their public programs series.

1998-2000 Northern California Dreadlock Conference for 3 years – workshops, speakers,

vendors, entertainment – Wose Community Church and Sam Pannell Meadowview Community Center, Sacramento, CA

1993-1995 “Poetry On A Saturday Afternoon” A WEEKLY reading featuring a local poet with community announcement, refreshments and open mic from 2-4 p.m. at Carol’s Books and Things, Sacramento

1991-1993 African Expressions Poetry Sessions” – Produced a series of 3 readings using 7 Sacramento Poets reading 7 minutes each at the following sites: Interfaith Cultural Center, Coloma Community Center and Carol’s Books. Over 60 people attended each reading.

News Articles and Interviews: The Promise Zone, Sacramento Observer, The Pocket, Sacramento News and Review, Blu Magazine, Because People Matter, New Poets Revolution, Cross Roads, Poetry Now. Sierra Nevada Poetry Festival, The Open Book, Sacramento Magazine

Honors and Awards:

August 21, 2005 - Coalition of Labor Union Award for cultural contributions to the labor movement.

June 23, 2002 – The Sound of Soul Music Award 2002 for best spoken word group.

March 2001 – Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission New Works Award

March 4, 2001 – Outstanding Women of Color Award – International Association for Women of color Day

December 1999 Black United Fund of Sacramento Valley Inc., Walter Bremond Community Service Award

Updated 3/9/2021 by Staajabu