

In this issue, Marvin X, winner of the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles award, writes about the film "Black Panther."

We include poetry by the award winner, Lamont Steptoe, recipient of the 2002 Kuntu Writers Workshop Lifetime Achievement Award in Poetry, from founders [Rob Penny](#) and [August Wilson](#).

Suzanne Lee sends us a letter from Hanoi where she and her partner novelist Mitch Berman have been traveling.

Teaching novels by James Baldwin, I discovered his connection to Italians in *Another Country*, *Giovanni's Room* and *Tell Me How Long The Train's Been Gone*. I asked Professor Nancy Carnevale to write about this Nexus. Few have used poetry to address our contemporary crisis as Horace Mungin does in his poem, "America."

Beginning with this issue, Konch will begin a feature called "Genocide Watch". In the past, US Genocide was done swiftly. Currently, the enemies of Blacks Browns and Reds have settled for a subtle less heavy-handed slow walking method. White supremacists like Nazi-funded Charles Murray have even suggested that some Whites can be eliminated. These crimes have been ignored by official historians who praise slave traders like Alexander Hamilton and Indian fighters like George Washington. But the United States will never achieve peace of mind until the ghosts our past are put to rest.

Finally, we attended a reading of Jessica Hagedorn's play, "The Gangster of Love," which will run at San Francisco's "Magic Theater" beginning in April. We took photos.

Editor