

Editorial

“My legacy was my job. Everything I did was what I was supposed to do. I worked with untold numbers of mothers to deliver 7,000 babies in Detroit, partnered with Margaret Burroughs, founder of the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago, to form the African American Museums Association... I was committed to what I defined as 'one of the most important tasks of our times,' ensuring that generations, especially young African Americans, are made aware of and take pride in the history of their forebears and their remarkable struggle for freedom. An idea came to me that African Americans needed a museum to collect and preserve our history and culture. And, with the help of many minds and hands, that idea came to fruition.” ~ Dr. Charles H. Wright

The cover photo shows Charles Ferrell, director of public programs at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and I standing before the museum, which was founded in 1965. The museum houses over 35,000 artifacts and archival materials and is home to the Blanche Coggin Underground Railroad Collection, Harriet Tubman Museum Collection, Coleman A. Young Collection and the Sheffield Collection, a repository of documents of the labor movement in Detroit. I've appeared twice at the museum's General Motors Theater, a 317-seat facility for live performances, film, presentations and more. First in Feb. to promote my book, *The Complete Muhammad Ali* and second in June to attend the showing of my film, "Personal Problems," which was part of Detroit's Cinetopia film festival, which shares the cover. While in Detroit, I had dinner with famed Detroit poets Melba Boyd and Bill Harris. This is Melba's second appearance in Konch. Their work appears in this issue. We also have poetry by Yuri Kageyama, Chun Yu, Ntozake Shange, Theo Konrad Auer and Tennessee Reed.

The issue features an interview with the great Attorney Howard Moore, Jr. about the Cosby case. While they have their right wing ambassadors embarrassing the name of the United States worldwide, Karla Brundage is our kind of ambassador. She is building bridges between Oaklanders and Africans. She gives us a report about her good work. I've included essays by two of my students during the Spring semester at California College of the Arts where I am Distinguished Professor. Sequoya Akosua Lee and Jevohn Newsome wrote original approaches to Toni Morrison's "Tar Baby" which I am pleased to share. Finally, with the belief that there will never be peace of mind in our country until it comes to terms with its genocidal past, we continue our new feature Genocide Watch. In this issue, an excerpt from *The History of King Philip's War* by Increase Mather, Cotton Mather and Samuel G. Drake. The slaughter of Indians who

were dwelling in Massachusetts before the Puritans arrived is considered America's first Viet Nam.

Ishmael Reed