



THE HUMBOLDT ARTS COUNCIL  
in the Morris Graves Museum of Art

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**COME TO THE MORRIS GRAVES MUSEUM**  
for **"Third Thursday Family Arts Night"** on Thursday, February 16, 2006

**Black History Month**

Kids and families should plan now to attend the Humboldt Arts Council's **Third Thursday Family Arts Night!** Thursday, February 16, 2005, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Morris Graves Museum of Art. This Thursday's presenters will include **African Storytelling** with Raymond Thoya from 6:00 to 6:25pm and 6:50-7:15 in the Performance Rotunda, **The Arcata Interfaith Kids and Teen Gospel Choir** from 6:30 to 6:50 and 7:35-7:55 also in the Performance Rotunda, **Bara Drum and Dance** in the Performance Rotunda from 7:15-7:30, **KEET-TV Young Writers' Celebration** information 6-8 in the Youth Classroom and **Arts and Crafts for the Black History Month** will be on-going in the Anderson Gallery. What we now call **Black History Month** was originated in 1926 by Carter Godwin Woodson as Negro History Week. The month of February was selected in deference to Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln who were both born in that month. The son of a slave, Carter G. Woodson was born in New Canton, Virginia on December 19, 1875. He began high school at the age of 20 and then proceeded to study at Berea College, the University of Chicago, the Sorbonne, and Harvard University, where he earned a Ph.D. in 1912. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 to train Black historians and to collect, preserve, and publish documents on Black life and Black people. He also founded the Journal of Negro History (1916), Associated Publishers (1922), and the Negro Bulletin (1937). Woodson spent his life working to educate all people about the vast contributions made by Black men and women throughout history. Mr. Woodson died on April 3, 1950 and **Black History Month** is his legacy.

Join the **African Storytelling** of Raymond Thoya. Raymond, a native of Kenya, grew up a member of the indigenous Giriama Tribe in Malindi, Kenya. Raymond is now a resident of Northern California. Born in 1954, Raymond ran away from harsh conditions at home at the age of seven. He wanted to go to school. In less than a year the little boy met his mentors, a loving Swiss family, on the sun-bleached beaches of Malindi. His adoptive family was professional equestrians and Raymond won the National Junior Jumping and Dressage Championships in Kenya at the age of 14, but not at the expense of his dreams for an education. His parents also gave him the education he needed to succeed in life. "Someone came across the globe and helped me when I was a child without food, family or home in Kenya; now I will do all I can for the destitute children of the world, starting in Malindi, continuing throughout Africa and the world?" says Raymond. AND so the seed of the dream has sprouted. Today the Thoya Oya Children's Center, a nonprofit organization directed by Raymond Thoya, is dedicated to helping poverty-stricken Kenyan children grow up to lead productive lives by providing them food, clothing, housing, and education. For more information visit [www.childrencentre.com](http://www.childrencentre.com).

**The Arcata Interfaith Kids and Teen Gospel Choir** will be singing Spirituals and Freedoms songs in recognition of Black History month. The Kids Choir, lead by Natasha Martin, will be accompanied on piano by Bob Eberstein, and the Teen Choir, lead by both Natasha and Bristol Martin, will be accompanied by Zach Robbins. The group will end the evening with the Black Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing". For more information contact Bristol at (707)498-8597.

**Bara Drum and Dance** is a collective from Arcata dedicated to the study and sharing of traditional music and dance from West Africa. With respect given to their teachers they hope to enrich the community with this culture. They offer dance classes Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7pm and a drum class Sundays from 4-5:30pm, both held at the Dance Center, 824 L Street, in Arcata. For more information contact Dulce at (707)832-9547.

Information for **KEET-TV's Young Writers' Celebration** will be available in the Youth Classroom. This is an opportunity for children in kindergarten through third grades to write and illustrate their own stories, on whatever topic they can imagine, based on the national Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators' Contest. This year, the national Reading Rainbow Contest is on hiatus, but KEET-TV is continuing the tradition as the "KEET-TV Young Writer Celebration" and expanding the contest to include fourth grade authors.

**Family Arts Night** is every third Thursday of the month. To be a presenter or for more information about Family Arts Night contact Rebecca at 707.442.0278, ext. 201. The Morris Graves Museum of Art is located at 636 F St., Eureka, Ca.

*The Humboldt Arts Council is dedicated to providing leadership in support of the rich heritage  
of North Coast arts and to bringing this legacy fully into community life.*