

January 9, 2008

Dear YUCA family and friends,

Blessings to you and your loved ones as we welcome the new year! We hope this letter finds you well.

As you all know by now, after eighteen years of grassroots struggle, we have shut down the Romic facilities in East Palo Alto and the Gila River Indian community. This is a historic moment not only for our community, but for other communities who have been fighting companies like Romic everywhere, and for our environmental justice movement as a whole.

Many people said it couldn't be done. Many people questioned what impact young people would have on a large hazardous waste facility, let alone an industry. Many people said that after so many years, Romic was a fixture in our land that it was difficult to imagine our communities without it. As cliché as this may sound, what kept us grounded was believing in the power of the people, and how that power can transform institutions. As David Cruz, 21, a YUCA youth organizer said at our celebratory rally, "It was people of color, immigrants, youth, elders, people who live in garages, people who society thought was expendable – these were the people that shut Romic down."

So we ask you – as someone who also has been fighting for justice in your community -- to join us in celebrating the power of the people. Our gala, "Operation People Power: Mission Possible" will take place on Saturday, March 15, 2008, beginning at 5PM at Costaño Elementary School in East Palo Alto. Together, we will honor the generations of families who have grown up fighting for environmental justice in our community of East Palo Alto and the tribal nation of the Akimel O'Otham. You will hear powerful personal stories from young people and elders who have come together to fight for something bigger than all of us, and through that, they have changed the course of history.

In this invitation, you will find more information about our event, how to join us, and how to continue to support us now and in the future even if you can't make it.

We would be very blessed with your presence, as you have been a part of this struggle as well – whether it's through standing with us at the gates of Romic in protest, sharing your resources, making a phone call, or signing a petition. This is all our victory, so we hope you can join us.

For more information, please call us at (650)322-9165 or email us at info@youthunited.net.

Sincerely,

Youth United for Community Action



OPERATION PEOPLE POWER

MISSION POSSIBLE

YOUR MISSION
is to help YUCA celebrate and honor
the community warriors that shut Romo down.

DATE AND TIME:

Saturday, March 15, 2008

5:00PM Reception, 6:00 Dinner and Program

RENDEZVOUS:

Costaño Elementary School

2695 Fordham Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303



OPERATION PEOPLE POWER
MISSION POSSIBLE

SUNDIATA ACOLI FREEDOM AWARDS



Sundiata Acoli is a New Afrikan Prisoner of War. He is imprisoned for actions carried out in the fight for Black Liberation. As a member of our Advisory Board, Sundiata has served as an incredible personal mentor and role model to our board, youth, and staff. He has advised us in our work, written letters to support the youth and staff, and contributed to our organization's development. He has been a longtime supporter of YUCA.

We honor the following SOCIAL CHANGE AGENTS with the Sundiata Acoli Freedom Awards. They exemplify his spirit, commitment, and dedication to the pursuit of justice for our communities, not just inspite of the costs, but because of them.

Environmental Justice Group of East Palo Alto

A coalition of youth, elders, East Palo Alto community residents and organizations who have worked tirelessly for environmental justice protections for our community

Gila River Alliance for a Clean Environment

An organization of grassroots tribal members on the Gila River Indian Community reservation in Arizona. GRACE has been on the forefront of the shutdown of Romicon in Chandler, AZ

Charles Brewer, Keisha Evans, Peter Evans

East Palo Alto community elders who began the struggle for environmental justice in our community in 1989 that then launched a movement

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Froilan Chan-Liongco
- Center on Race, Poverty, and Environment
- GreenAction for Environmental Health and Justice



TICKET PRICES

\$ 5 - YUCA Alums
\$ 10

\$ 25 Student/ Community Members

\$ 50 Individuals

** Interested in hosting or sponsoring a table so YUCA family and community members can attend for free?*

Please call us at (650)322-9165.

AD BOOK

Send us a shout-out! Purchase an ad in our commemorative book...

1/8th page **\$ 75**


1/4th page **\$ 140**

1/2 page **\$ 260**

Full page **\$ 500**

Special 2-liner
Shout-out:

\$ 10



the price
of your
mission



do you accept?

**** you have until Friday, February 29, 2008
to accept or reject your mission.**

- Yes, I/we accept. Please reserve _____ tickets.
Enclosed is a check for \$ _____.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

- No, I cannot accept, but please accept my donation of \$ _____ so other people may attend.

- I would like to place an ad in the program book.

_____ Ad size \$ _____ Amount enclosed

- Ad/ Comment Enclosed Ad/ Comment Emailed to info@youthunited.net

Please make checks payable to "YUCA" and send to YUCA, 2135 Clarke Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303