

MESSAGE IN THE MEANTIME



Special Pride
Edition

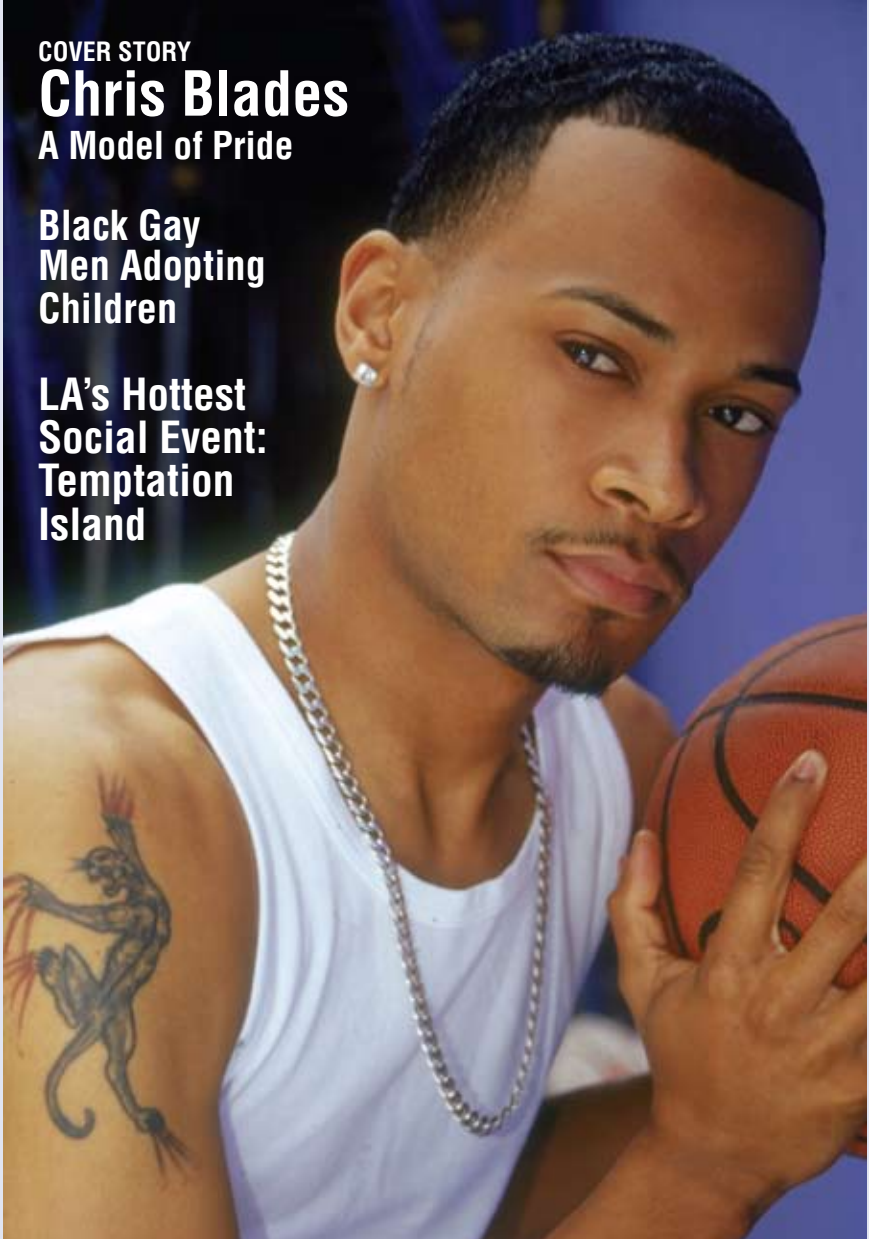
COVER STORY

Chris Blades

A Model of Pride

Black Gay
Men Adopting
Children

LA's Hottest
Social Event:
Temptation
Island



A Foundation of Pride

by Jeffrey King
 Founder & Executive Director



Welcome to Pride in Los Angeles. There is no other city that offers the sun, the mountains, the beach, the skyline, the desert, wine country, and of course some of the finest black people to ever walk the face of the earth. Many of us who have lived in Los Angeles since the '60s can speak to the shifts that have occurred over time. We can see how Black gays and lesbians are coming out much younger and making their presence known in the community. We can also see how many of our youth have no real connection to the rich and potent history of the Black SGL movement here in Los Angeles.

This year we salute our foundation. These people and organizations continue to link those who will have paved the way to those who will follow. We salute ATB-LA, Unity Fellowship of Christ Church, Minority AIDS Project Los Angeles, Living in the Light Ministry, ULOAH, the National Black Justice Coalition, the Black AIDS Institute, Jasmyne Cannick and Marquita Thomas of Out and About in LA, the Soulful Salon, Jewel Thais-Williams—(our home front), Ivan Daniel Productions, Club Metro and First Fridayz, the Friendship Club of Los Angeles, Gentlemen's Gentlemen and In The Meantime for coming together to make us even more proud to be BLACK lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and living in LaLa Land.

Jewel Thais-Williams and the Catch One compound continue to be the center of community activism, empowerment and

socialization. Visit the new full service restaurant, Soul Vegetarian and the new patio extension to Jewel's Room.

In The Meantime currently hosts 6 programs, peer counseling, HIV/AIDS testing and a weekly discussion group out of leased space on the lower office level. ATB-LA has been meeting to plan this year's Black Pride. ULOAH's monthly meetings for sisters have really taken off. There are AA meetings on Wednesdays and Sundays. Soulful Salon, a Black artist collective, meets monthly and offers a Third Thursday celebration for all artist and local talents, while the club continues to bump on and on until the break of dawn. All of this and more is housed in the historic Catch One compound.

Brothers, can you imagine what Sundays would be like without The Study (Michael Lafayette)? You know he also has a tasty soul food restaurant called Jean P's Soul Food Express, and just between me and you Club Seduction is my favorite spot once a month. I live for it! Juicy Fruit is well hosted and headed to the top at its new location in Hollywood.

I've been so many places in my lifetime. Still, I find myself in a committed relationship with the City of Angels. "I'll see you at the beach." Thanks to ATB's founding board members: Duane Bremond, Will Harris, Craig Howard, Gregory May and Kevin Thrower; the current board members: Wendell Carmichael, Anthony Caruthers, Michael Flowers, Will Harris, Montoya Jennings and Habiba Shurat; and the 2007 community co-chairs: Jasmyne Cannick and Alan Michael Graves. We look forward to the new leaders who will join you at the table.

Books In The Meantime



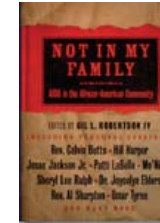
From Top To Bottom by Michael-Christopher



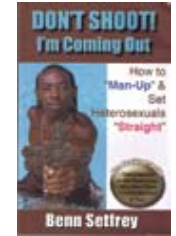
The Mee Street Chronicles by Frankie Lennon



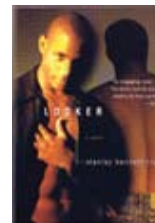
Impossible Dreams by Mykle-Kane



Not In My Family Edited by Gil Robertson IV



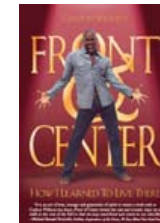
Don't Shoot! I'm Coming Out How to "Man-Up" & Set Heterosexuals "Straight" by Benn Setfrey



Looker a Novel by Stanley Bennett Clay



Filling in the Empty Spaces by Bryan Edney



Front & Center: How I Learned to Live There by Carlton Wilborn



Black Hollywood Tragedies by Leroy Richardson III

See www.inthementime.com for more selections

EVENTS

TUESDAY, JULY 3RD
IN THE MEANTIME, MEN'S GROUP, INC.
 BLACK RIVER TUESDAY
 FOOD, MUSIC, & FELLOWSHIP
 THE VILLAGE HEALTH FOUNDATION
 4067 W. PICO BLVD., LA
 7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. / FREE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH
SET-IT OFF PARTY
CLUB METRO
 PRESENTS "BLACK-NESS"
 @ THE FACTORY ULTRA SUEDE
 661 ROBERTSON (ENTER ON LA PEER DR.)
 WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA
 HIP HOP MUSIC/DANCING + SEXY STRIPPERS
 AMERICA'S TOP ILLUSIONIST SHOW
 DOORS OPEN AT 10P UNTIL YO ASS DROPS!
 SHOWTIME 11P
FRENCHIE DAVIS PERFORMING LIVE!

TUESDAY, JULY 3RD
B2B CLUB SEDUCTION LA
 VISIT WWW.CLUBSEDUCTIONLA.COM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH
CLUB METRO

THURSDAY, JULY 5TH
THUGGED OUT THURSDAY
 @ CLUB FACADE (FORMERLY THE NRG)
 6365 HOLLYWOOD BLVD
 HOLLYWOOD, CA 90028
 (HWY BLVD & NRG) • 10P - 3AM •
 LIVE PERFORMANCE BY JACKIE O

FRIDAY, JULY 6TH
FIRSTFRIDAYZLA

FRIDAY, JULY 6TH
FIRSTFRIDAYZLA
 @ GAM STUDIOS • 4975 W. PICO BLVD
 LOS ANGELES, CA 90019 (LA BREA AND PICO)
 "FREE" PARKING, 2 DJ'S, 3 FLOORS,
 A BACK-OUT ROOM,
 VIP LOUNGE PLUS "FREE" DRINKS FOR VIP GUEST
 SEXY STRIPPERS, SEXY MEN
 GENERAL ADMISSION ONLY \$20.00 VIP \$25.00
PLUS KELLY ROWLAND CD RELEASE PARTY
 RSVP AND INFO 323.769.6333

SATURDAY, JULY 7TH
LOS ANGELES BLACK PRIDE
 • "BLACK-OUT" THE OFFICIAL ATB BEACH PARTY IN MALIBU
 • THE OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY 9P-4A
 FOR FULL DETAILS VISIT ATBLA.COM

In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.

"Creating Unity and Affirming Our Common Bond"



Jeffrey King
In The Meantime Executive Director

Benn Setfrey
Author of "Don't Shoot: Film Coming Out"

Dwight Powell
Publisher of C&E Magazine; ITMT Wellness Award Recipient

David Malebranche
Medical Doctor; HIV/AIDS Expert

Rodney Collins
Medical Doctor; Psychiatrist

Wellness for Life

'Wellness at Every Level'

2007 Black Men's Health Conference

Mental, Physical and Spiritual Health and Well-Being

Saturday, August 11, 2007
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Village at Ed Gould Plaza
1125 North McCadden Place
Los Angeles, California 90038
(One block east of Highland between Santa Monica and Fountain)

Free to the general public.
Registration deadline: July 15, 2007
at www.inthemeantimemen.org
For additional information, 323-733-4868

Providing our community with solutions through action, empowerment, education, and health care resources



In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.

6th Annual Umoja Retreat 2007



Transformation: 'The Act of Purpose-Filled Living'

This year's three-day weekend retreat will leave no man unchanged. This once-in-a-lifetime experience will free you, leaving you unstuck, relieved from the bondage of procrastination and stagnation, elevated and renewed. Each man will be gifted with the opportunity to walk away transformed.

Join us for three amazing days tucked away in the Wine Country of Santa Barbara's Zaca Lake Retreat. Wake up to fresh air, birds singing, and the sound of a natural spring creek winding through the powerful oak trees that reach beyond. Enjoy brilliant sunsets while boating on the bottomless pinnacle called Zaca Lake. Participate in exhilarating workshops and nature hikes in God's Country with other brothers of like minds and spirits.

Be Transformed!

The Application Process—To ensure that this year's experience will be the absolute best ever, the application process includes a personal interview. If you are interested in attending this year's retreat or applying for a scholarship, contact In The Meantime to interview by June 30, 2007. There are 25 slots available. Participation is on a first come, first served basis among those approved.

Statement of Pride

"Brothers and Sisters: we are underground inventive and over-ground effective. Stand up and celebrate your life with pride."

IVANDANIELPRODUCTIONS.COM

ITMT Calendar

July 3: Black River Tuesday

On the night before Pride all of LA will come together for an evening of fun, food and fellowship. This evening will consist of a panel presentation that will feature proud Black LGBT community members followed by a delightful buffet from Harold & Bells.

Free. All are welcome to attend.

How does this issue impact the lives of Black men?

Facilitator: Harden Carter.

August 7: Black Gay Male Relationships

It'll never work; Meet me in the mirror and not the chat room.

Facilitated by Steven Palmer.

July 10: Stanley Bennett Clay

Join Stanley Bennett Clay for the release of his latest novel *Looker*, the story of Brando Heywood, a handsome, popular and successful entertainment lawyer who seems to have everything but passion. Two years celibate and a prisoner of his routine, he goes through life quietly on the sidelines while his promiscuous best friend, Omar Stevens, thrashes through life and love with all the ups and downs Brando barely realizes he longs for.

Co-Facilitated by Jeffrey King and Stanley Bennett Clay.

August 14: Let's Talk About Sex

How can we improve the quality of our sexual experiences? This intimate discussion will explore what it means to share and experience sexual healing. We will discuss mindless, compulsive sexual behavior and how we began to honor the gift of sex.

Facilitated by Ivan Daniel III.

August 28: Trent Jackson (Author).

Statement of Pride

"Today I give honor to those who have come before us through Stonewall and The Civil Rights Movement. It's been a hard struggle that continues. We Stand on the broad shoulders of greatness."

Message To Our Youth

Step up to the plate and carry the torch proudly for those who will come."

JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS
Founder, Village Health Foundation
Owner, The Catch One

July 17: What Would Jesus Do?

The actors and director of the critically-acclaimed stage play, *What Would Jesus Do?*, will share excerpts and facilitate a dialogue on the topic of what happens when a bisexual man is faced with HIV/AIDS, his wife and the church.
Co-facilitated by Yvette Heyliger and Jeffrey King.

July 24: Yoga Meditation I: Siri Sat Nam.

An introduction to the art of meditation and yoga: the integration of mind, body and spirit.

Facilitated by Siri Sat Nam.

July 31: Beyond Color Lines:

Are Black men racist when it comes to the issue of immigration in Los Angeles?

TEMPTATION ISLAND

By Greg Wilson

What is paradise? Palm trees, pineapples, leis, sexy men? Sounds like paradise, right?

As project coordinator of My Life My Style, on May 25, 2007, I helped to bring a taste of paradise to The Study with a special event called Temptation Island.

So many young gay black men in our community face temptation and risk daily, In The Meantime's My Life My Style program decided that this would be the perfect opportunity to expose the reality by offering suggestions of ways to do more than simply survive.

Unsafe sex is one temptation that seems to be overtaking the community and leading the epidemic we are facing today! Our goals are to educate, empower and inspire younger men. We do this by creating healthy and structured social environments for interaction. This allows us an opportunity to provide resource referrals and to capitalize on aspects of interventions that will enhance their



mindset and reduce the risk for these younger men.

This event was a major success. We hosted nearly 200 African American SGL Men. Fourteen were tested for HIV/AIDS/STDs thanks to Pierre Chambers (POW Mobile Unit). Our HIV trivia game called "Survivor" was a hit. The music, scenery and vibes made everyone feel like they were in paradise, away from the reality and stress they encounter each day.

We offered an opportunity to take a vacation. It was to a place like no other.... Temptation Island.



Statement of Pride

"Pride is being a young black gay man living in Los Angeles. Today I am able to live my life without compromise. Daily, I exercise my freedom to be exactly who I am."

GREG WILSON
Program Coordinator
My Life My Style



CHRIS BLADES

A Model of Pride 2008

Blades explains, "This program is focused on uplifting and empowering young gay men to achieve all they can out of life while maintaining a healthy lifestyle."

A media- and arts-focused organization, REACH LA produced an award-winning documentary film on the west coast ballroom scene with Chris's assistance. "I felt that it was important to develop this documentary so that the [ballroom] community would be recognized, as well as to be used as a tool to inform and educate people about HIV/AIDS."

Thanks, Chris, for being A Model of Pride.

Chris Blades is not your average 21-year-old. Most black men his age haven't gained his level of achievement—so we're proud that this sexy black man graces the cover of the first-ever My Life My Style calendar.

Chris, a third year student at California State University, Dominguez Hills, shares that, "School has always been an important aspect of my life that I do not take lightly. I'm really proud of the fact I will be graduating next year with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services."

Blades offers, "I've been able to maintain a 3.5 GPA throughout school and my plans are to get my Master's Degree in MFT [Marriage and Family Therapy]."

Chris puts his schooling to work in the field of human services at the non-profit organization REACH LA, where he's Outreach Coordinator of the young men's Ovahnness Program.



Statement of Pride

"I'm proud to show the world all of who I am. Pride is the day I fell in love with myself and wasn't afraid to tell anyone else."

VERMIUS WHITE
Health Educator
The G.A.A.M.E. Plan

Daddy, Pappa and Uncle

By Curtis and Carl



Our names are Carl and Curtis, and we are the parents of children who are age three, eight, nine and 10. We also raised our nephew from the age of 15. While our nephew is now a 20-year-old adult, he is still very much a part of our household as he continues to look to us for parental guidance. When we started dating more than seven years ago, we didn't know that children would become such a large part of our lives. It all just sort of happened.

When we decided to move in together, we thought it would be just us and our five dogs (my one plus his four). Early in our relationship, one of Curtis's biological nephews, Chris, who lived in a foster care group home, would visit us on weekends. Eventually, the weekend visits turned into him living with us. While Chris has always referred to us both as "Uncle," he started acknowledging us as his parents when he moved in.

When Chris turned 18, he helped us to realize that we were good parents and that we had a positive impact on his life. We decided that we wanted to continue to be parents, but we wanted to be able to start parenting "a child" at an early age. As we started the long and drawn-out adoption process through the County of Los Angeles, we learned that there were so many children in need of homes, especially homes that were willing to take children that were a part of a sibling group. So our concept of adopting "a child" grew into adopting children.

We ended up being matched with Dezire and Delijah, a brother and sister. By adopting them, we would ensure that they

were able to stay together and take them out of long-term foster care. We liked the idea of adopting two children since they were going to have a non-traditional family structure (Daddy and Pappa) and it would be good for them to have each other so they could talk about having two fathers.

We really knew we were doing the right thing when our nephew Chris wanted to give us his blessing. He told us that he really wished that he had had the opportunity to live with us at an earlier age because we had an overwhelming impact on his life. He told us that there were lessons that he wished he had learned from us earlier and that he would be happy to see other kids get what he had missed. He also told us that by living with us, the kids would have an appreciation and respect for gay couples, as there is no difference from heterosexual couples.

Six months after the adoption of our daughter and son, a family situation occurred. Our nieces needed a place to go. Their mother, Chris's mom, would not be able to care for her children, our nieces now aged 10 and 3. We could not stand by and watch them go into the foster care system. We moved the children into our home and proceeded to blend the family the best way we could.

We would be less than truthful if we said our situation is like a storybook. While we didn't plan to be rearing this many children, we would not have it any other way. All of the children are with us to stay, and we work very hard to provide them with opportunities, lessons and a loving home. We are Daddy, Pappa and Uncle—they are sons, daughters, and nieces. We are one happy family.

Our schedule does get very crazy, as we both are working professionals. Carl works to secure contracts and grants for a child care and development organization, and Curtis manages the purchasing unit at a major engineering firm.

The lives of Black gay men matter to God.



In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.
323-733-4868 ■ inthemeantimemen.org



Statement of Pride

"Pride is showing the leaders of today that the youth of tomorrow are listening, by standing up and being an example."

ALTON MIRANDA
Project Coordinator
The Power Project

Statement of Pride

"Pride is loving you, being you, and respecting all."

RONALD JACKSON
Founder of the Soulful Salon

DADDY X TWO

By Erick Mitchell and Paul Porter

The decision to adopt was made while on vacation in Sedona, Arizona, Christmas of 2003. Little did we know that we would be celebrating Christmas 2004 with two little boys excited at the prospect of what Santa may be leaving under the Christmas tree. The process leading up to the boys moving in and finally being adopted was, to say the least, from our perspective, amiable. If we had one regret, it would be that we should have done this sooner in our lives. And the answer to that would be that we were not ready for this life-changing, dynamic addition to our lives and families.

Initially our parents and friends seemed worried about the idea of our adopting children. Reactions ranged from some being eager for it to happen, to "I hope you guys pick the right kids," to "maybe you both should rethink this idea." The idea

Statement of Pride

"Pride is like a seed that grows from within. With nurturing from both inside and out it will grow to produce fruit."

THORNELL JONES
Marketing Consultant

Statement of Pride

"Pride is Love disguised as a Black Man."

EARL WOOTEN
Board President
In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.

that two gay men in their 40s could adopt went beyond all the traditional beliefs of what comprises the typical family. Yes, some comments were difficult to hear and some were mean, but that did not lessen our desire to adopt. We were clear on what the process entailed and still chose to continue.

Despite the comments and discussion about how the process was progressing, our families and friends rose to the occasion on June 15, 2005 when we appeared in court to finalize the adoption. This was the point of no return. We got two great sons, but our sons received even more.

With two biological brothers having two very different personalities who so desperately wanted the adoption to happen, the 18-month process seemed like an eternity. While one was comfortable waiting and knowing that he would be adopted without doubt, the other had major anxiety and meltdowns during the long waiting process. It's one thing to be an adult going through what you believe to be endless requirements, but imagine the child who so desperately wants a permanent home and unconditional love.

As for the process of endless paperwork, we completed it. As for the parenting classes, we attended them. As for the counseling sessions, we talked until we started making stuff up. As for the visits from social workers that caused our kids to go crazy with anxiety each month, we endured them.

You ask if we would do it again? Without a doubt!!

Dwight Powell

Editor-In-Chief, CLIK Magazine
& In The Meantime's 2007 Wellness Award Recipient



Dwight Powell is the Publisher and Editor-In-Chief of *Clik* magazine, America's oldest and most recognized magazine for and about men of color. At the tender age of 13, Dwight became an employee of McDonald's, where he served as a layout artist for the local area restaurants newsletter.

His talents and interest in publishing continued while enrolled at Florida State University, where he studied Finance and Multinational Business. A true leader, Dwight was President of the FSU Caribbean Students Association, the Florida Caribbean Students Association (FCSA), and student Senator for the College of Business.

After college, Dwight landed at *Homes & Lands* magazine, America's leading real estate publishing house, the *Houston Chronicle* Art Department and later, the Houston Creative Connection, a leading advertisement and design agency. It was at the Houston Creative Connection where Dwight started his own business, *Clik* magazine in 1998—formerly known as *Clikque*.

Today, Dwight is not only the publisher of America's number-one Black gay magazine, but also CEO of the nation's number-one Black and Latino, gay circuit event in Miami during the Memorial Day Weekend. Founded in 2002, Sizzle Miami is anticipated and celebrated around the world.

Continually raising the bar and serving as a beacon of hope for the advancement and enhancement of the Black gay community, Dwight launched the Clik Honors in 2006, a national awards show to celebrate individuals who through their everyday lives, talents, causes and campaigns paved the way for the gay community. The Clik Honors, a first-of-its-kind event for the Black gay community, was deemed a huge success. Under one roof, Dwight was able to bring together actors, authors, activists, politicians, film directors and producers, musicians, promoters and other professionals to celebrate Black gay achievements.

Born in Miami, Fla., Dwight spent most of his childhood and adolescence with his mother and grandmother in Nassau, The Bahamas.

In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc. Salutes ATB 2007

Wednesday, July 4

ATB Fourth of July

Pool Party

5434 Garth Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90056
\$15 Includes food
All ages welcome;
ID Required
12 Noon until 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 5

ATB Soulful Salon & Literary Cafe

Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel
5855 West Century Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045
11 a.m. to Midnight

Writer's Panel

A two-hour panel discussion showcasing today's popular and up-and-coming African American and SGL writers.
18 & over welcome.
Free
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Eclectic Marketplace

featuring art, jewelry, clothes, books, music and more available for purchase.
Thursday and Friday

Thursday, July 5

Dating Game

18 & over welcome, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Bringing Sexy Black Erotic Poetry

A night of the freakiest, sexiest no-holds-barred total erotic expression with erotic spoken word performed by dim light with audience members and performers encouraged to wear black apparel.
18 & over welcome. \$5 Cover
8 p.m. to midnight

Friday, July 6

ATB Opening Reception & Party

Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel
7 p.m.

Saturday, July 7

ATB Beach Unity Celebration

Point Dume, Malibu Beach
\$10 12-17 / \$15 18 & Older
Dawn till Dusk

ATB Beach Party After Party

California African American Museum
Exposition Park
600 State Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90037
9 p.m. to 4 a.m.

MESSAGE

is a publication of

IN THE MEANTIME MEN'S GROUP, INC.

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www.inthementimemen.org, www.mylifemystyle.net, www.solameth.org

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