

**2017**

**Taste  
of the  
Junction  
5th**

**Friday, Sept. 1, 6-8 PM**

**The Junction Speaks**

**WDM Community Center 218 5th Str.**

**Sat., Sept. 2, 1-10 PM**

**Street Festival**

**Railroad Pavilion**

An early Saturday morning in February 2013, she invited Valley Junction descendants to her home. Dino Rodish, Vincent Valdez, Mark Rocha, Larry McLachlan III, and Reike Plecas came to listen to a vision that resided on the inside of her for several years. She shared her vision and passion for the project ... a neighborhood reunion.

Reike made phone calls to the Mayor, Steve Gaer and others seeking support of this idea. The Mayor said "Tell Rachelle if she incorporates "it" I will support it." Within a week Reike processed the necessary paperwork and the first seed donation came from our own Steve Gaer; and thus, the Taste of the Junction, Inc. was born.

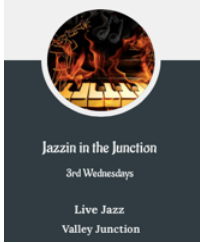
Rachelle retired in 2012 after 33 years in telecommunications; however, she is currently the assistant secretary for the CWA National Minority Caucus and a lifetime member of Communications Workers of America. She is owner and baker of a dessert business Chellie's Sugar Shack Emporium offering cookies, cakes & cobblers.

She is the mother of five children, Natasha (Melvin), Robert, Alonda (Donault) Long, Omar Duncan (Nakitut), and Keesha Gaines. She has been blessed with thirteen grandchildren.





# Contents



## Jazzin' In The Junction

Beginning October 2016 third Wednesdays in Valley Junction were reserved for smooth jazz, thoughtful poetry, and great Pan-Asian delicacies. P. 4

## The Junction Speaks

Friday, September 1

A night of honoring the people, culture, and cuisines this year honoring the Valdez family for being in the Valley Junction area for 100 years. Local refreshments served. P. 6



## Artist and Athletes

History is made daily. Taste of the Junction annually captures a special part of our stories. This year Valley Junction descendants are recognized for their athleticism and artistic talents. P. 16

## Multicultural Street Festival

Saturday, September 2

From 1PM-10PM bring the family, lawn chairs, and dancing shoes. Get ready to eat from the best food truck vendors and then dance the night away. Live entertainment reverberates from the mainstage all day. P. 36



Taste of the Junction Inc. sends out a special thank you for all who have made this year and all five years possible. This is a community event and organization. The people, the culture, the cuisine...Ahhh Taste of the Junction! P. 42

**Valley Junction Neighborhood Reunion**  
**Labor Day Weekend 2013**  
 sponsored by Taste of the Junction, Inc.

Friday, August 30: Taste of the Junction at 5<sup>th</sup> Street & Railroad 5-10 PM  
 Saturday, August 31: The Junction Speaks at Valley Community Center 12-6 PM

Across The Tracks  
 Taste Of The Junction  
 Neighborhood Reunion  
 Unity in the Community  
 Valley Junction

TheCuisines  
 ThePeople  
 TheCulture

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual**

**Valley Junction  
 Neighborhood Reunion II  
 Labor Day Weekend 2014**  
 Sponsored by Taste of the Junction, Inc.

**Friday, August 29:**  
 The Junction Speaks at  
 Valley Community Center  
 5-9 PM

**Saturday, August 30:**  
 Valley Junction  
 Neighborhood Reunion at  
 5<sup>th</sup> Street & Railroad  
 2-10 PM

**2017**  **5 makes**

**THIRD ANNUAL**  
**Valley Junction Neighborhood Reunion**  
**Labor Day Weekend 2015**

Music & Spoken Word Thursday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00-8:30 PM  
 Friday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00-8:00 PM: The Junction Speaks  
 Saturday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> 1:00-10:00 PM: Taste of the Junction Street Festival  
 Sponsored by Taste of the Junction, Inc.

**FOURTH ANNUAL**

**MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL**

**jazzin' In the Junction,**  
 Wednesday, August 10th 7:00-8:30 PM

**The Junction Speaks**  
 Friday, Sept. 2nd 6:00-8:30 PM

**Taste of the Junction Street Festival**  
 Saturday, Sept. 3rd 1:00-11:00 PM



# *Jazzin' In The Junction '17*





***Heath Alan Band***



***Cecil White on percussion with Dwight Jackson on Keyboards***



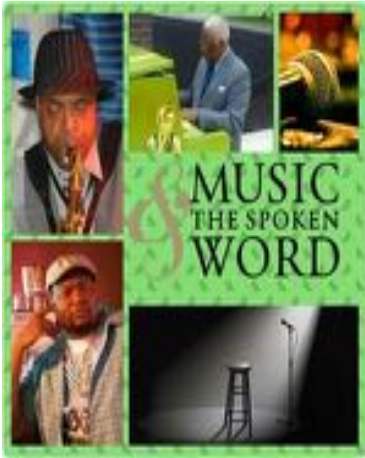
***Sam Salomone & Friends***



***Lenny Bell & Poets***



# Jazzin' In The Junction 2015-16



## 2016

*Dwight Jackson*



... JUNCTION!!!



## MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

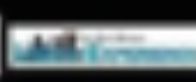
Junction Speaks  
**Friday Sept 1**

6-8pm

Storytelling Slide show presentations Artist Displays  
WDM Community Center | 218-5th Street West Des Moines  
Sponsored by Valley Community Church

Will be honoring Valdez family 100 years in junction  
specifically Johnny Valdez Golden Gloves Champ.

There will be creative artist displays  
Storytelling slide presentations and a variety of free food.





# 7 WDM PERSONS TAKE OATH TO BECOME CITIZENS

Seven persons from West Des Moines were among 136 people from 31 foreign countries who became American citizens Tuesday.

This class, administered the oath by Federal Judge William F. Riley, was the second largest in the history of the court. In September, 1938, a class of 155 was admitted.

Members of the naturalization class and the foreign countries of which they formerly were subjects:

Great Britain — Jean Margaret Thorbrogger, 2200 Hillside; Mexico — Margarita Rodriguez, 1 Center st. and Guadalupe Valdez, 116 Twelfth st.; Belgium — Lilliane Rochet Howard, 2001 Locust; Canada — Edith Diana Runner, 121 Eleventh st.; Denmark — Inga and Willy Christensen, 508 Eleventh street.

Dr. McNerney Home

Dr. J. R. McNerney, 521-16th

Celebrating  
100 Years  
in the  
Junction:  
Valdez  
Family



The Valdez family of Valley Junction is celebrating 100 years in America this year. Their grandfathers were recruited to help fill an American labor shortage created during WWI. The Rock Island Railroad sent its recruiters deep into the heart of Mexico to find the strongest and most able bodied young men to do the grueling work of building track. Juan and Manuel Valdez spent nearly 80 years working for the “Rock”. They built a life and raised their families in Valley Junction. With their sister Guadalupe and their mother Jesus Reyes, they left their families and friends far away in Mexico to build a life in America.



Today’s generations of the Valdez Family track roots back to great-great grandparents Manuel Valdez Sr. and his brother John Valdez who came to West Des Moines from the state of Michoacan, Mexico in 1917. Manuel Valdez Sr. and John Valdez both worked for the Rock Island Railroad and lived with their children in the box car community know as Hyde Park named after the superintendent of the railroad company. John and wife Beatrice had 6 children and Manuel and Guadalupe had 13.



September of 1952, Manuel Valdez Sr. died from pneumonia, but Guadalupe “Lupe” carried on to receive her citizenship in 1955. Since her taking oath, her’s and the children of John and Beatrice’s children all proudly represented the Valdez name through accomplishments in the arts, sports, military service, civic engagements, community involvement, public service and business.



Manuel Valdez was popular in the Des Moines Mexican music community and had his own band that included his brother Darrell on trumpet and later his son Tony and nephew Vincent who later became a Des Moines Police officer and sergeant. Vincent held the position of Chief Union Steward of the Des Moines Police Union and Public Information Officer for the Department. He was accompanied in the Des Moines Police Academy by his cousin Michael Valdez, son of Darrell Valdez. Raymond Gallardo, son of Frances Valdez Gallardo is the current Vice President of the Des Moines Police Union, Vice president of the Des Moines Police Burial Association.

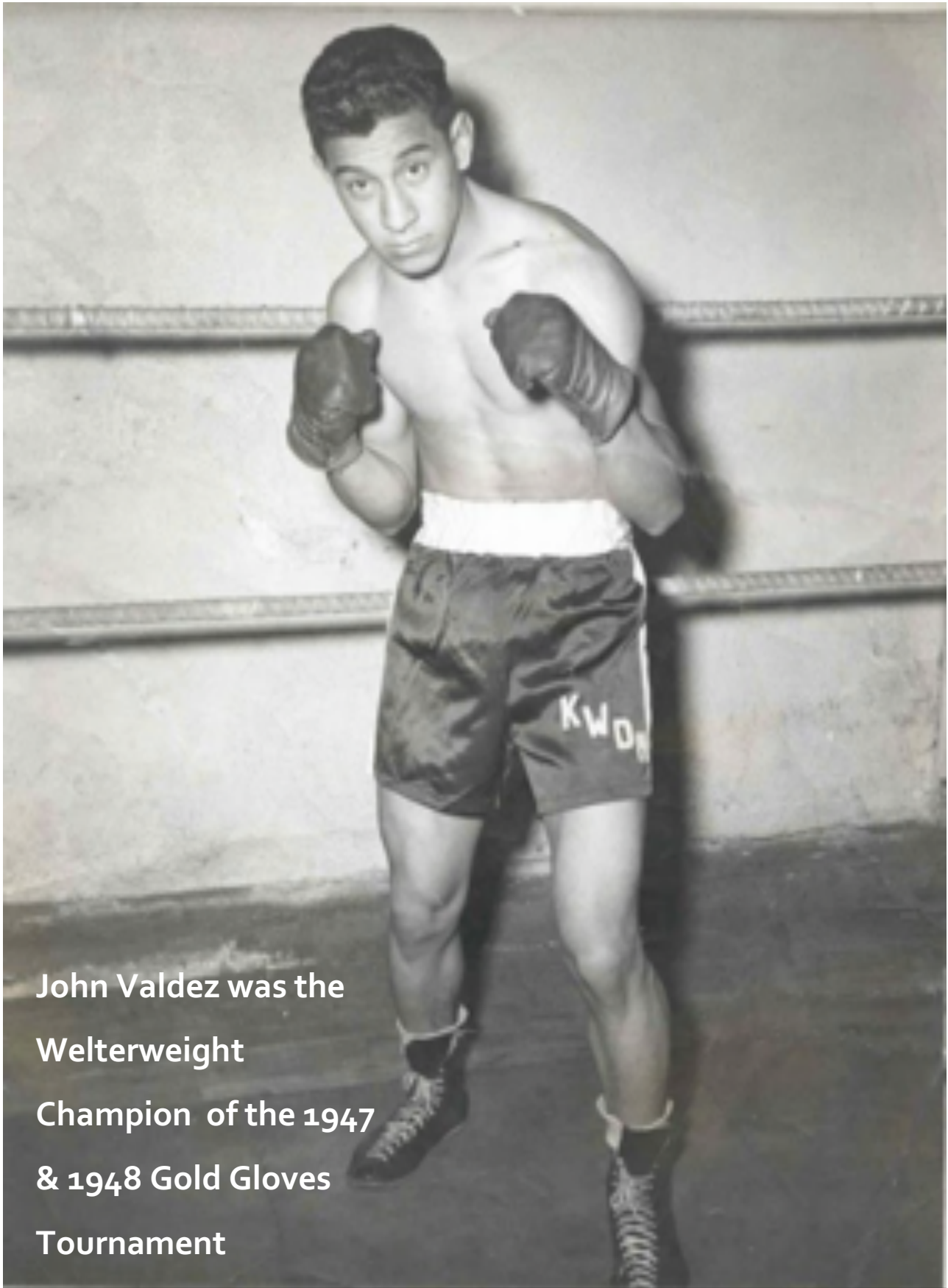
Additionally, he is a past president of the Iowa State Police Officers Association. Michael and Vincent are now retired after 32 years of service. The Valdez family has also sent several of the children to the University of Iowa, Central College, Drake University and other learning institutions.

Jeff and Steven Duncan, sons of Lupe Valdez and Frank Duncan ran successful businesses, Duncan Painting, and Casita Valdez restaurant are located here in Valley Junction.



The descendants Manuel and Guadalupe Valdez and John and Beatrice Valdez owe a huge debt of gratitude for their sacrifice and work in helping to build America and they continue to carry on the family tradition of hard work, sacrifice and community service.





John Valdez was the  
Welterweight  
Champion of the 1947  
& 1948 Gold Gloves  
Tournament

Today, the senior members of the Valdez family will be represented during this years Taste of the Junction and will highlight the third oldest of the siblings, John Valdez, who will be celebrating his 86 birthday this December.

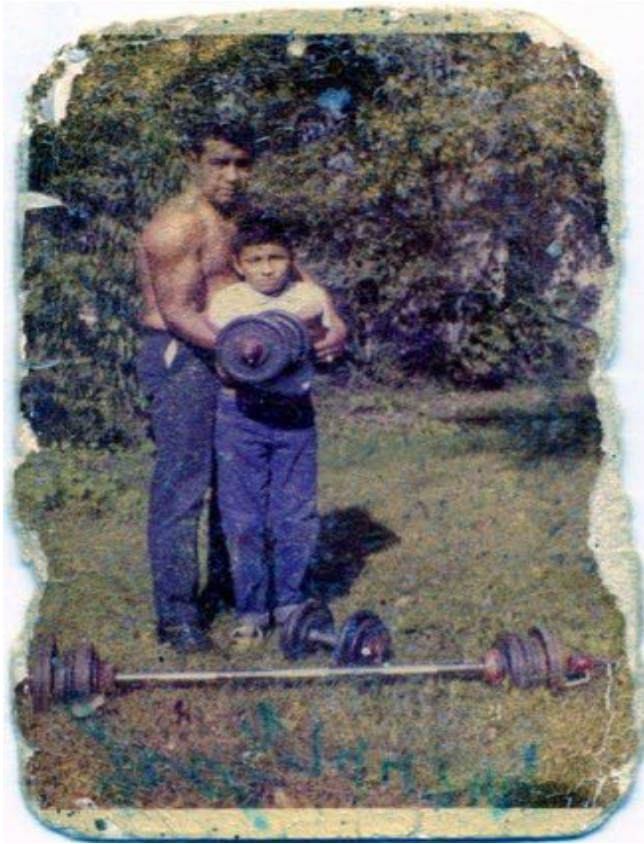
John Valdez and his brothers excelled as athletes throughout junior high and high school. He was a two-time Iowa Golden Gloves welterweight champion boxer in 1947 and 1948. He went on to fight professionally and played some semi pro football for the Des Moines Warriors. John, along with his equally talented brothers were also successful in baseball, basketball, football. The sport of boxing was and still is today, the true passion of John's athletic career.

Sharing his talents with his children, grandchildren and many other residents of West Des Moines and Des Moines, John was always eager to teach those in need of building confidence and discipline for personal growth. He trained young fighters and managed the West Des Moines Athletic club where he trained boxers from Des Moines and West Des Moines leading them to the Iowa Golden Gloves tournaments. He was also a volunteer trainer for the Des Moines Police Boxing Club and operated his own longtime business, Valdez Painting and General Contracting.



John Valdez, Sr. receives accolades for being the Welterweight Champion of Golden Gloves 1947 & 1948.





Valley Quarterback Manuel Valdez feeds ball to brother John Valdez, halfback.





A complex maze with a path leading to a central junction. The maze is composed of many interconnected paths and dead ends, creating a dense network of lines. The path starts from the bottom and leads towards the top, where it meets a central junction. The junction is a point where the path splits into two directions, one leading to the left and one leading to the right. The overall appearance is that of a complex, multi-dimensional structure.

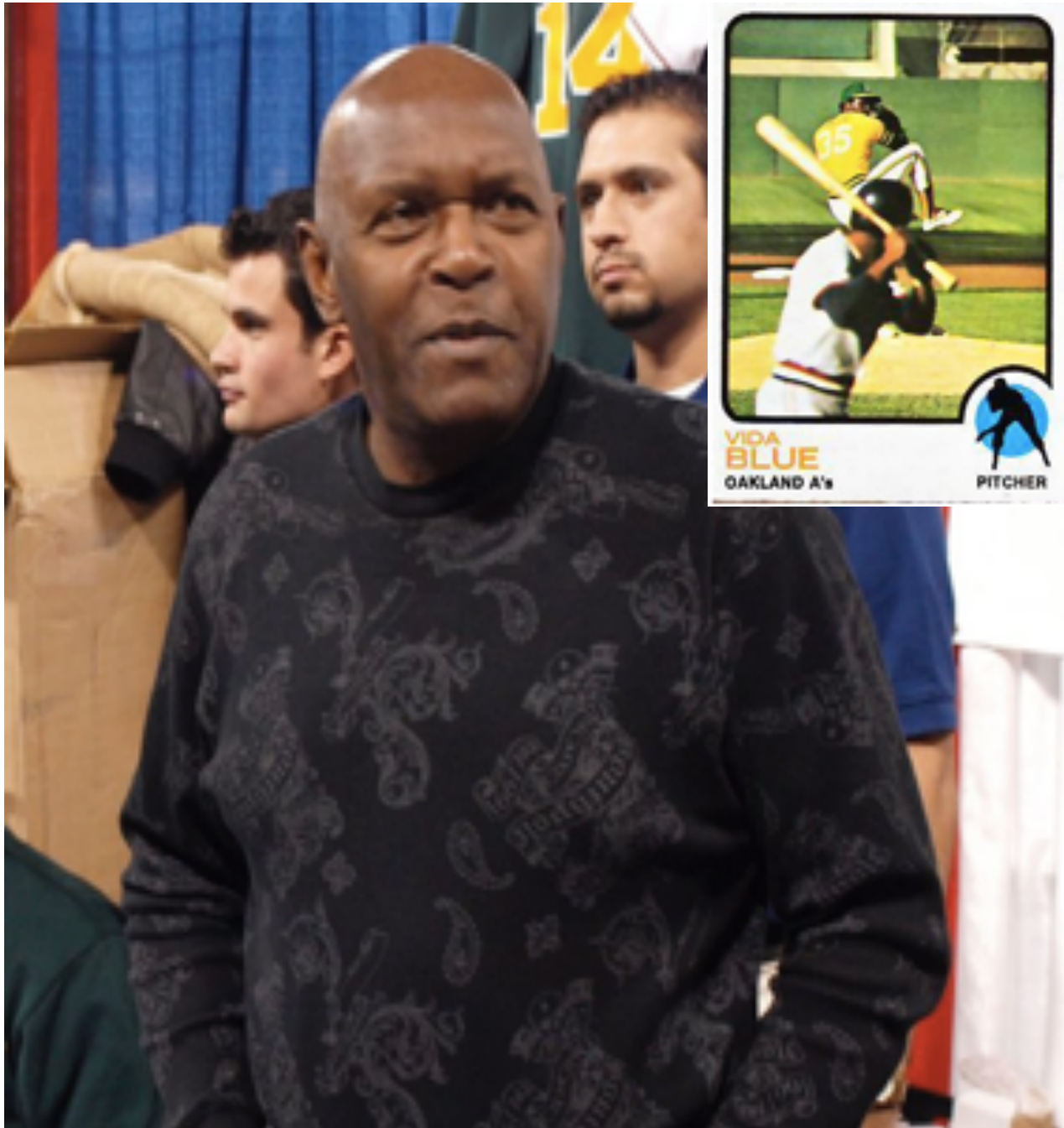
**Junction**

**Athletes**

**&**

**Artists**





## Vida Blue

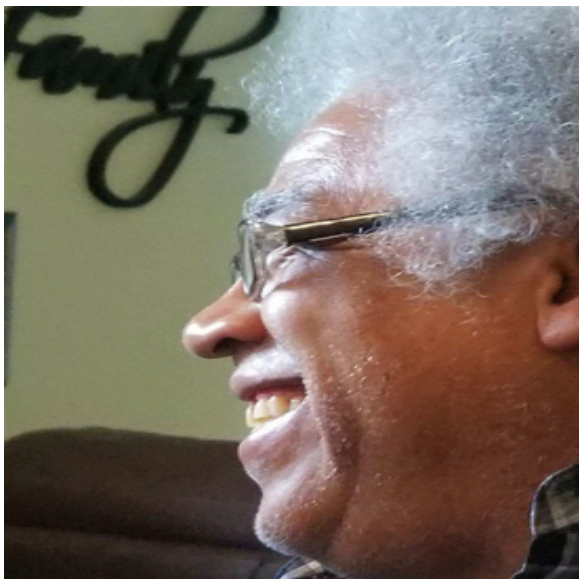
pictured 2010

Slaughter Family descendent

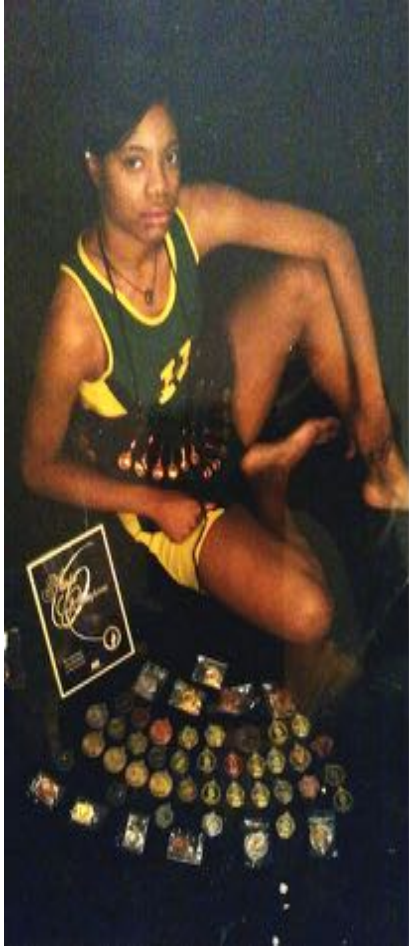
**Vida Rochelle Blue Jr. (born July 28, 1949) is a former American Major League Baseball left-handed pitcher. During a 17-year career, he pitched for the Iowa Oaks and then moved to the major leagues with the Oakland Athletics, San Francisco Giants, Kansas City Royals. He was awarded MVP and six time All-Star!**



# *Gerald James*







**Granddaughter of Thressa Lamar and Omar James. Daughter of Omega James.**

**A sprinter who broke several high school records. Won Drake Relays title in the 100 yard dash. A state title in the 200 meter dash regional records remains unbroken. And she won a medal in the national meet in the 100 meter dash.**

**September 2017 Gretchen will graduate with her Bachelors Degree.**

# **Gretchen Joi Lamar**



Son of Judy Lamar  
Grandson of Thressa Lamar & Omar James  
Great Grandson of Minnie L. Love (Slaughter)

Attended Grandview University for a future as  
Sports Trainer

Played Football at: Grandview University,  
Des Moines Blaze (a Minor League Football  
Team), Florida Marine Raiders (Professional  
Indoor Football League), and Iowa  
Barnstormers

Being 6'3, he played the positions of strong  
safety, linebacker & defensive end.



*Raytron*

*Lamar*





Daughter of Carl Lamar, Jr.;  
Granddaughter of Harriet & Carl  
Lamar; Great-Granddaughter of  
Thressa Lamar; Great-Great  
Granddaughter of Minnie L. Love  
(Slaughter).

Player & won championship at  
East High School her senior year  
and runner-up her junior year.  
Played as starting point guard. She  
has the best ball handling skills  
anyone has ever seen. She earned  
a full scholarship to UNI. She  
continued to play ball as a star  
point guard. She graduated with  
degrees in economics and  
finance.





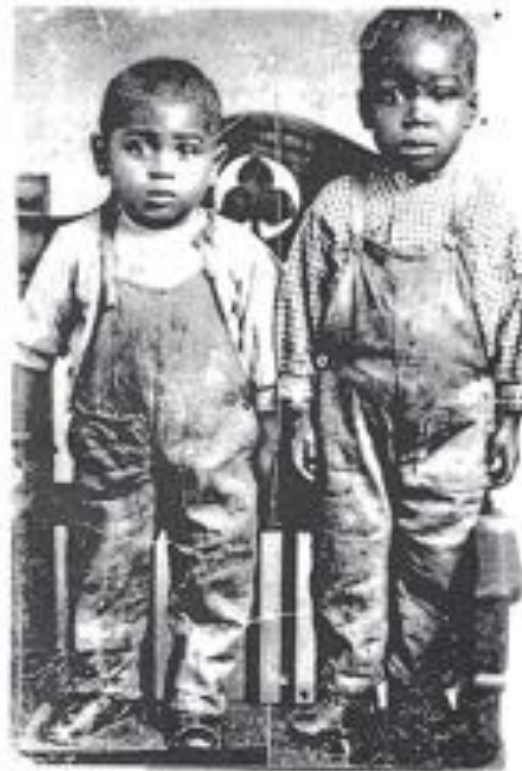
**Stephen Long**



O'Neal Peterson says:  
*"Welcome Home — To Each Family*  
Memories are made of this



*Tessie Peterson  
Mother*



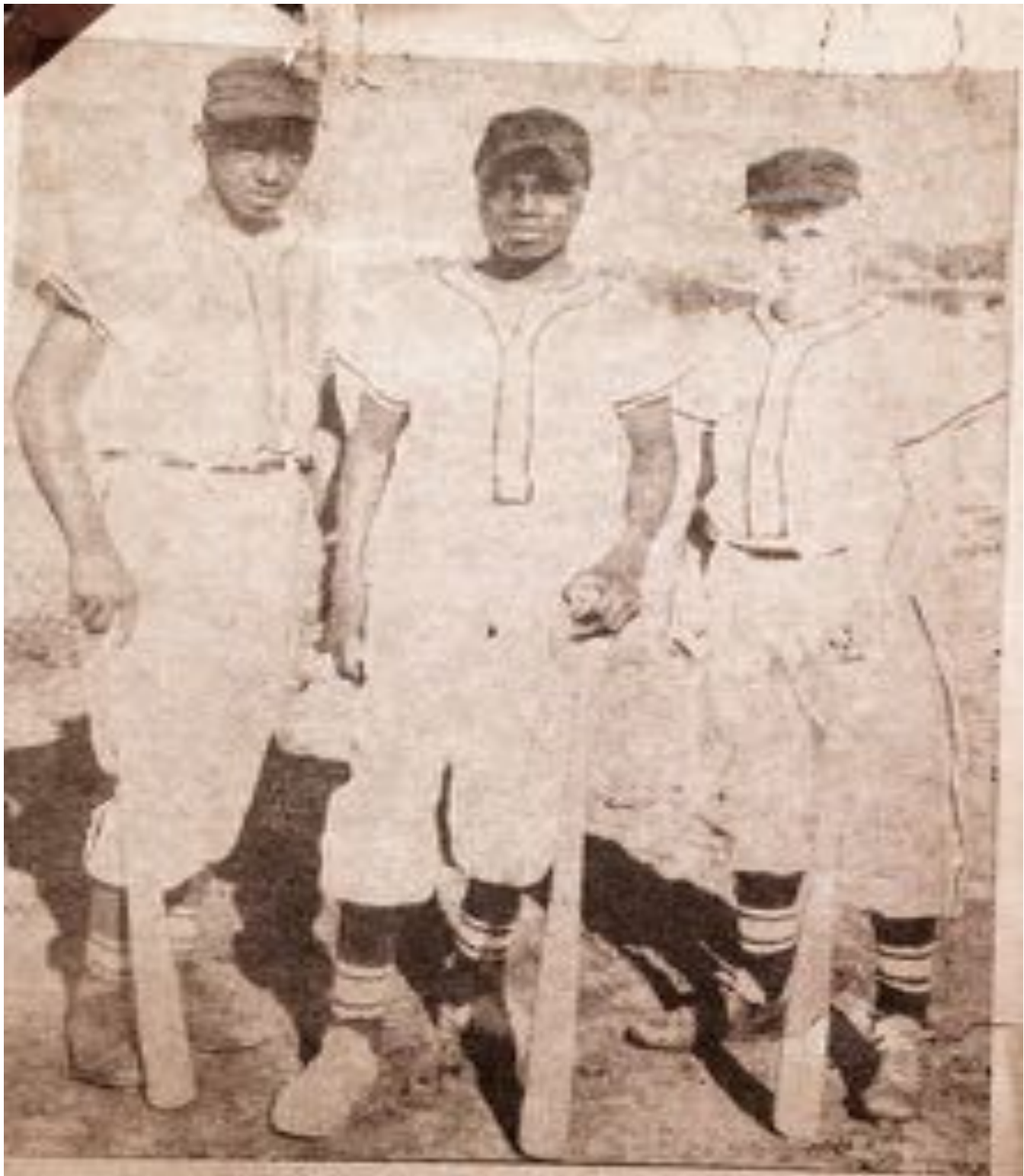
*O'Neal & Cousin as Children*



*O'Neal the ballplayer*



*O'Neal today—Blessed to be 97*



### Three Batting Over 400 in Triple A League

Three boys from the first place Dodgers in the Triple A League are batting over 400.

From the left are: Gerald Page, 107 Eleventh street, pitcher, batting 490; Dennis Leman, 1800 Maple street, pitcher and first base, batting 421; and top man on the batting for the Dodgers is Steven Karsch, 703 34th st., catcher, batting 443.

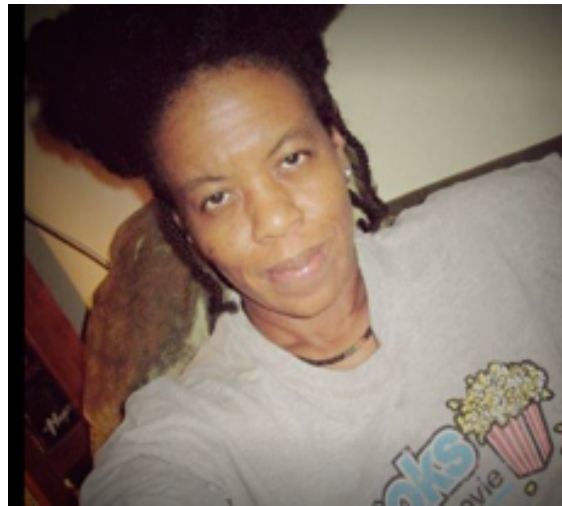




**Jaquinta**

**JaiElf**

**Cherry**



Oldest daughter of Wilbur Eugene Cherry. Wilbur is son of Thressa Lamar and Grandson of Minnie L Love

Jaquinta currently resides in New Orleans.

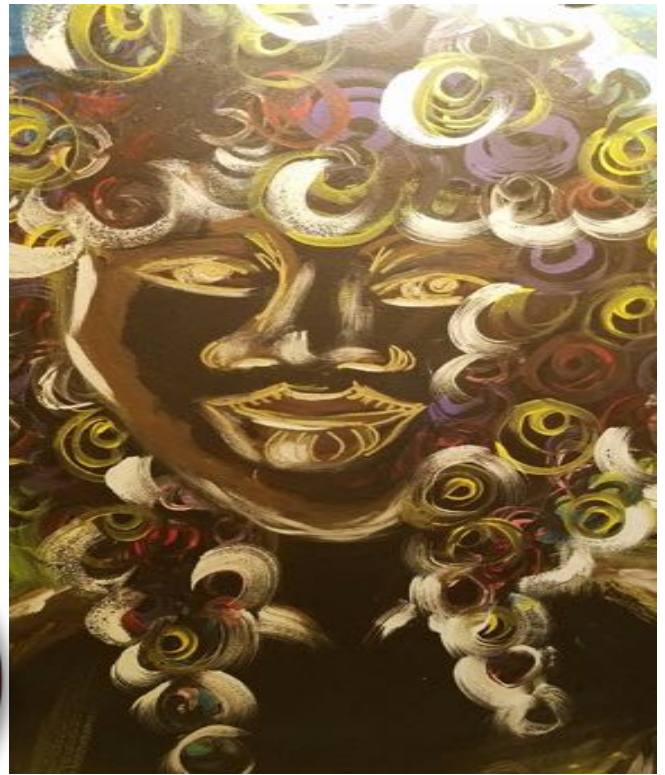




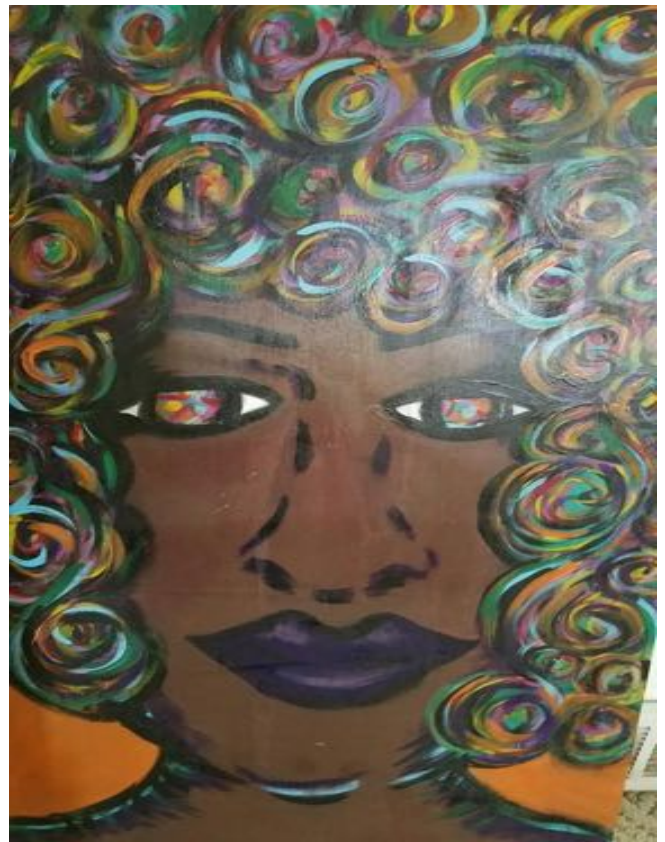
**Jada Long**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Generation**  
**Long Family**







**RayVynn Schauf, former Miss Black Iowa and performance speed paint artist. See her at the Multicultural Street Festival.**







**Julia Roland**

**5<sup>th</sup> Generation Page Family**

**Visual Artist**





the revalex crawford closed  
 spoke . open choir hebron  
 church  
 junction mic minister  
 dancers word contemporary  
 vcc  
 valley praise capitalcitysteppers  
 dance denise cavil  
 mt jovenesembajadores  
 charleshoush high  
 vfwpost8879 poetry  
 baptist  
 jungletownproductions  
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 school  
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*Celebrating 5 Years Of  
 The Junction Speaks*





# 2013

Saturday, August 31

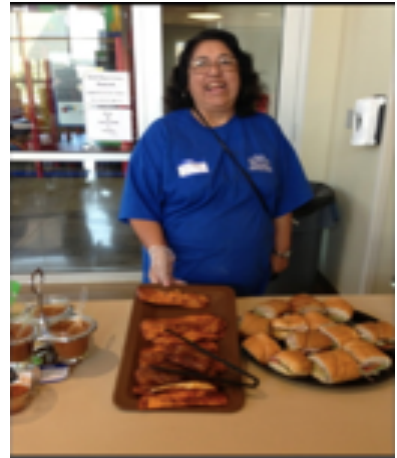
## Schedule

### " The Junction Speaks"

- Jovenes Embajadores Latin Dancers
- Vincent Valdez Slide Show
- The Junction Speaks...Open Mic
- VCC Praise Dance
- Contemporary Praise









# 2014

**Friday, August 29, 2014**

### **"The Junction Speaks"**

Valley Community Center  
4343 Fuller Road, West Des Moines  
5:00-9:00 PM

### **Schedule of Events**

5 PM: Meet & Greet

6 PM: The Junction Speaks

Charles Hoash

Spoken Word by Annissa Roland

7 PM: Capital City Steppers

7:30 PM Jungle Town Productions

Open Mic



### Phenix Elementary 1939-2014



Alumni from the first kindergarten class at West Des Moines Elementary who would eventually graduate from Valley





# The Junction Speaks

# 2015

Friday, Sept. 4th

5:00-8:00 pm



**Valley Community Center**  
4440 Fuller Road  
West Des Moines, Iowa

Come learn about the  
Descendants of the Junction



History of Mt Hebron Baptist Church featuring soloist Rev. Alex Crawford, Jr. & Minister Denise Cavil



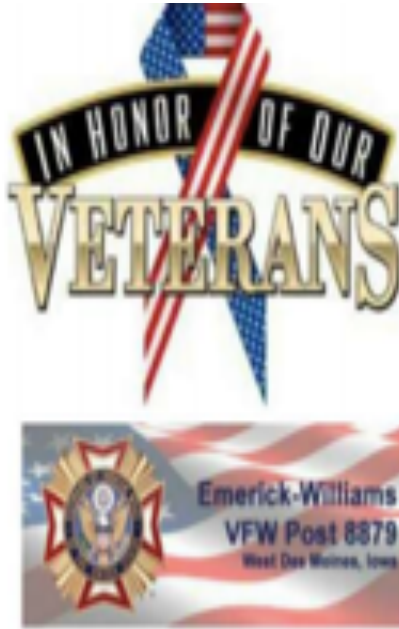




**2016**









*5th  
Annual*

# **TASTE OF THE JUNCTION MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL**

*It's All About The People • The Culture • The Cuisines*

**Saturday, September 2**

**1pm-10 pm**

**Railroad Park Pavillion**

*Budweiser Beer Tent, Live Entertainment,  
Inflatables, Food & Craft Vendors,  
Kid Zone, Fun For Whole Family!*

*Budweiser*



# Entertainment

1:15 Jada Long

1:30 Queen Kenzie

2:00 Grand Avenue Ruckus

3:00 Tighten Up

5:30 The Tony Valdez Large Band

8:00 Parranderos Latin Combo





# *The High Ten*







**THE TONY VALDEZ LARGE BAND**







# Descendants Of Valley Junction

Aguinaga	Frank	Lemke	Rhodes
Ames	Frazier	Lloyd	Richardson
Anderson	Frith	Long	Rocha
Argumedo	Fucaloro	Love	Rodriguez
Ayala	Gaitor	Lovelady	Runner
Bates	Gasca	Luther	Rush
Baty	Gallardo	Lyman	Sain
Bell	Galvan	Maher	Salazar
Beveridge	Garcia	Manferdini	Septer
Bissette	Garner	Martin	Shelley
Bohanna	Garrett	McIntyre	Sherwood
Bouma	Gaston	Lane	Shineflew
Bright	Gilligan	McLachlan	Shostall
Brody	Gomez	McQuerry	Sickel
Brown	Grant	Medina	Smith
Burch	Grgurich	Meza	Smuck
Campbell	Griffin	Miller	Snow
Canada	Gustafson	Moore	Sorenson
Carlins	Hagen	Morelock	Stamatelos
Carlson	Haltom	Moreno	Stewart
Carmody	Harlow	Morris	Stoddard
Carter	Harris	Munoz	Stonich
Chandler	Havel	Murillo	Swink
Clark	Hayes	Negrete	Taylor
Commodore	Heard	Newman	Tometich
Connors	Herndon	Page	Tonelli
Constance	Hill	Paine	Trachel
Cooper	Hodges	Painovich	Trumbo
Crawford	Howelton	Palacios	Underwood
Davis	Hughes	Paloma	Valdez
Dawson	Hull	Parker	Vasquez
DeFord	Indelacato	Peeler	Wardlow
Delatore	James	Perez	Warren
Diaz	Jamison	Perkins	Watson
Dixon	Johnson	Plascencia	Williams
Dryer	Kamerling	Plecas	Young
Duncan	King	Pryor	
Edwards	Kinney	Radocovich	
Elliott	Kirkman	Ramirez	
Eppright	Kramer	Reddens	
Fidler	Ladd	Reed	
Fisher	Lamar	Relay	
Fox	Lane	Renteria	
	Lawnsdail	Rhiner	



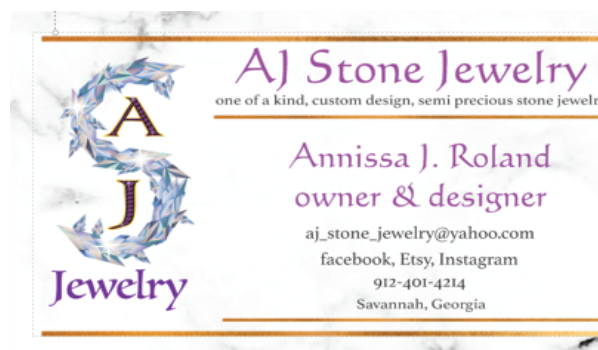
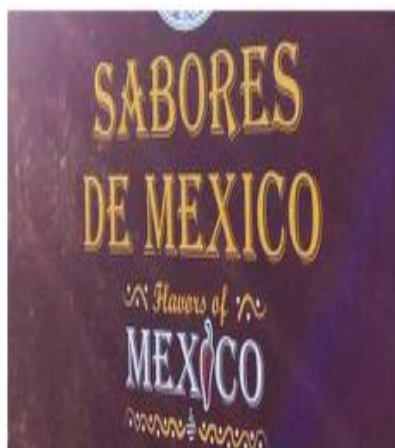
# Street Festival Vendors



*Jencie's Love Essential Oils*



Act  
Entertainment  
Face Panting





PLATINUM SPONSORS

*True Value*®



*Barbara McIntyre-Plecas Trust*



# SILVER SPONSORS



**Mayor Steve and Mrs. Sally Gaer**

## FRIENDS OF THE TASTE

Mark Rocha

Gerald and Valerie James

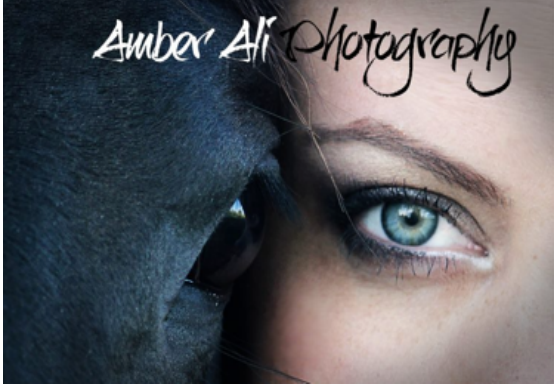
Steve and Marilyn Coleman

Johnnetta Long

Margaret Long



# FRIENDS OF THE TASTE



**Congratulations to  
The Taste of the Junction  
on Your 5-year Anniversary**



Renee Hardman, Principal Owner  
Hardman Consulting, LLC  
P.O. Box 65011  
West Des Moines, IA 50265  
Renee@HardmanConsulting.net

**Thanks for making a  
difference in the community.**





THE DES MOINES  
**URBAN EXPERIENCE**



**TEAMSTRONG, INC.**<sup>®</sup>  
MARKETING & PRODUCTIONS



**SOUTHPAW IA**  
FURNITURE REFINISHING & RESTORATION







# The People, The Culture, The Cuisine Ahhh...



**Taste of the Junction was incorporated in February 2013. This is a nonprofit created to advance the awareness and preservation of the diverse cultures of Valley Junction.**



**Taste of the Junction, Inc.**  
P O Box 65284; West Des Moines, IA 50265; Phone: 515-650-9352  
[TasteofJunction@gmail.com](mailto:TasteofJunction@gmail.com)

<http://www.tasteofthejunction.org>