



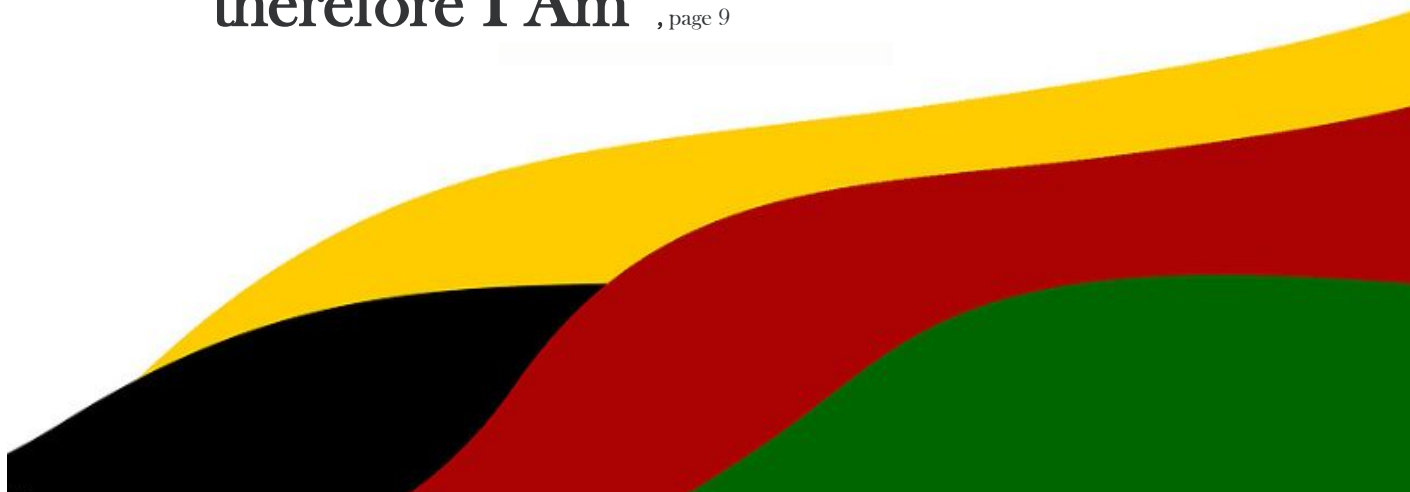
Feb. 2024

Black History Month

Vol. 3 | Issue 2



...because there is no **I** without **We** as is reflected in the African Proverb, “**I am because we are, and since we are, therefore I Am**”, page 9



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Let The Truth Be Told (TM) is a
quarterly newsletter.

Let the Truth Be Told is intended to give African Americans the opportunity to speak "truth to power" through media such as commentary, poems, history, and art, among others, which will be provided by parents, teachers, children, ministers, historians, and other citizens. This platform aims to transform our words into empowered activism.

We are seeking contributors to **Let the Truth Be Told**. If you feel you have something to say but don't believe you write well enough, don't let that stop you. Please submit what you want to say, and you will be given support which will lead to your voice being heard. **Let the Truth Be Told!**

Submissions are reviewed by the editorial board and may be edited for brevity and clarification. We regret we cannot return any unsolicited articles, photos, or other materials.

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Southern Delaware Chorale Presents

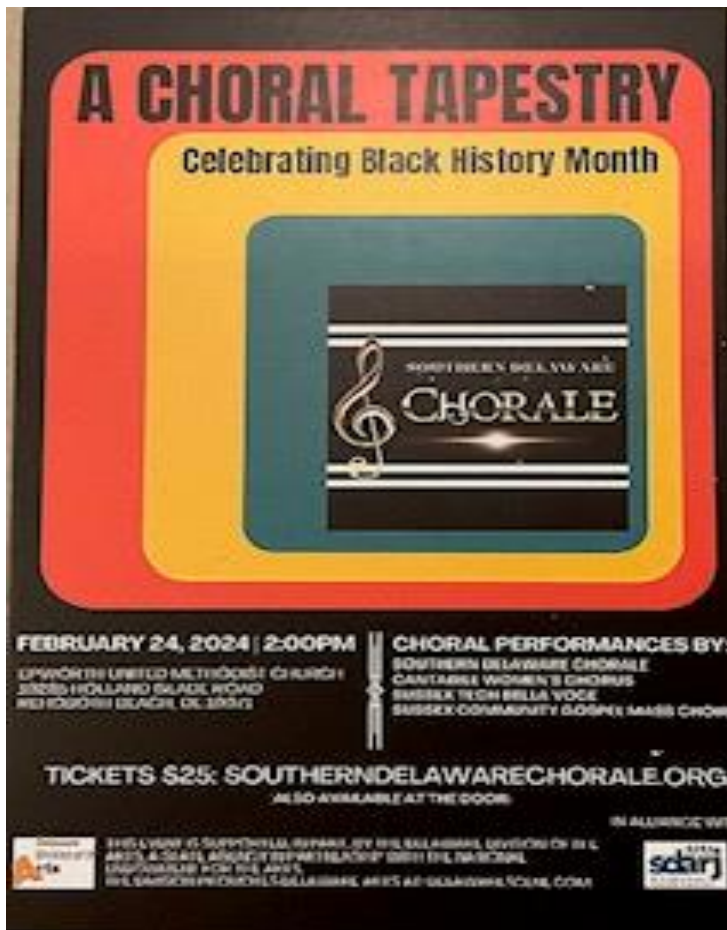
A Choral Tapestry: Celebrating Black History Month

by Toni A. Barrett

Southern Delaware Chorale unites men and women from all over southern Delaware whose mission it is to provide a vehicle through which local singers can come together to enhance their musical abilities and celebrate a shared passion for choral music.

Under the direction of Dr. Colin Armstrong, the Southern Delaware Chorale (SDC) stages three concerts throughout the year, including one in February that uniquely highlights music by African American Composers, both historical and contemporary. This event adopts a festival-style format, featuring collaborations with various local groups to showcase a diverse range of African American choral pieces.

This year's concert is scheduled **for Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 2:00 PM, taking place at Epworth United Methodist Church (19285 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971).** Joining the Southern Delaware Chorale will be featured choirs, including the Cantabile Women's Chorus, Sussex Tech High School's Bella Voce Ensemble, and Sussex Community Gospel Mass Choir.





DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

January 11, 2024

University Community:

Yesterday, Elon Musk and others posted disturbing social media remarks questioning the talent and intellect of Historically Black College & University (HBCU) students in general and HBCU aviation program graduates in particular, which necessarily includes our own here at Delaware State University. Such statements come just a few days before the nation celebrates the birthday of one of its most consequential sons—an American force on the world stage and enshrined in human history—an HBCU alum, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The remarks were unoriginal in their amplification of antiquated racial tropes, signify little of objective consequence, and strike any learned ear as attention-seeking noise. The HBCU legacy is 186 years old and proud, replete with talent, intelligence, achievement, success, and contributions to an America that would be poorer without it. Black aviators are competent professionals required to attain the same achievement standard as any counterpart, particularly at HBCUs.

Any accusation otherwise echoes humanity's silliest yet most pervasive prejudices and reverberates with debunked narratives that have always sought to oppress populations to preserve the power of another. Consider that American history tells the tale of one immigrant wave oppressing the next and the next in favor of its own. And Black Americans have been here all the while—withstanding, transcending, and soaring despite the pressure to remain earthbound forever.

The HBCU legacy is rightly credited with creating the Black middle class and, more importantly, enriching America with our pride and commitment to service and leadership in every field of human endeavor.

Aviation is one area in which Black participation has been hard-won. Still, we are making great strides, achieving success at the same objective classifications and standards set forth by the Federal Aviation Administration. Qualified is qualified. There is no free pass anywhere in this field. During World War II, at Delaware State University, we were among six HBCUs with aviation programs that ultimately became the famed Tuskegee Airmen. The uninformed would do well to recall that the annals of American military history are full of Black achievements and heroics, including those of the Tuskegee Airmen with their stellar record. It was, of course, after the war—and after almost every war in our nation's history—when Black veterans returned home to find closed doors in the aviation industry despite their manifest competence.

Today, we graduate more qualified pilots of color than any other school in the country and serve many aviation students from all backgrounds, regardless of where they come from. That's an America worth fighting for and flying for.

HBCUs have been there for them and for any student who sought an education. Without HBCUs, 325,000 fewer students of color every year would have college degrees. Without HBCUs, there would be 30% fewer Black scientists and STEM professionals. Without HBCUs, the number of Black lawyers would be cut in half. Without HBCUs, there would be almost no Black doctors. Without HBCUs, the Black middle class would be decimated, and without HBCUs, by 2030, the detrimental impact to the American economy of all that loss would be at least \$1.7 trillion. All of this has been achieved despite systemic underfunding over time and despite racist narratives belying the very truth of our excellence.

In this country of equal opportunity—an ideal that fueled the passions of our founding, an ideal that drives the ambitions of all blessed enough to call this country home, and an ideal toward which we, together, continue to move ever closer—talent and intelligence of all kinds are treasure found in every population, regardless of race, class, gender, creed, or religion. We must never look upon that treasure and label it something else at the behest of those who attempt to trick us for their gain.

I would warn us instead against those who masquerade as intelligent but who, as Dr. King himself warned, lack the hallmarks of the truly educated. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of proper education.

“ To think incisively and to think for one’s self is very difficult. We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half-truths, prejudices, and propaganda. At this point, I often wonder whether or not education is fulfilling its purpose. A great majority of the so-called educated people do not think logically and scientifically. Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit, in many instances, do not give us objective and unbiased truths. To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal and the facts from the fiction...The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason but with no morals.”

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

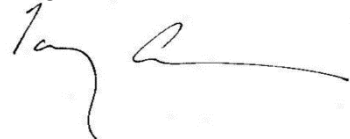
“The Purpose of Education,” The Maroon Tiger, 1947

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/purpose-education>

Let us rise up and fly above the fray, considering anew: Who do we admire? From whom do we buy and why? How do we serve those whose talent has yet to meet opportunity? Do we participate in the political process? How do we wield the power of our education?

Regardless of the questions, remember you (WE) are the answer.

Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Allen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tony Allen, Ph.D.
President



On June 17, 2021, Governor John Carney signed House Bill (HB) 198 ([Bill Detail - Delaware General Assembly](#)). The law requires public and charter schools in the state of Delaware to teach Black history to children enrolled in grades K-12. To keep our readers current regarding the latest developments regarding the bill's implementation, **Let The Truth Be Told** is providing the following updates:

- **Year Two Black History Education Report – 2023-2024** – January 15th of each year, the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) is required to submit a written report to the Governor, the members of the General Assembly, and the Director of the Division of Research. The report must include the educational programming provided in accordance with the minimum content expectations outlined in the bill and how the curricula was implemented by each school district and charter school. For the complete 2023-2024 *Black History Education Report* go to [Black History Education \(HB 198\) – Delaware Department of Education](#). For a detailed description of how each school district and charter school reported they will integrate the minimum curriculum requirements outlined in the law during the 2023-2024 school year as well as the characteristics the content should show, go to [Black History Education \(HB 198\) – Delaware Department of Education](#)
- **HB 198 Leads** - By September 15th of each year, each Delaware public school district and charter school must provide the name and contact information for the individual responsible for overseeing the implementation of the educational programming required by HB 198 to DDOE. These are the individuals whom parents, community organizations and others should contact to raise questions and/or offer recommendations regarding Black history content or any other issues one has regarding the implementation of HB 198. For a complete list of HB 198 leads for the 2023-2024 school year, go to [LEA HB 198 Leadership, 23-24 SY - Google Docs](#)
- **Partnerships between School Districts and Community to Implement HB 198 Right All the Way** – On January 30, 2024, representing the **Let The Truth Be Told** HB 198 Community Input Group, Dr. Marlene A. Saunders, Executive Manager, **Let The Truth Be Told**, along with Rev. Dania Griffin, Pastor, Antioch A.ME. Church, Frankford, DE (back row, blue shirt) and George Beckerman, Publisher, Viking Gazette (far right) presented to the Racial Equity Consortium examples of collaborations between school districts and community organizations that demonstrated ways community organizations can be a resource to school districts to ensure the integration of Black history content as well as teaching methods that fully meet the spirit and intent of HB 198. Rev. Griffin described a six-week Black history study series program that occurred from July to November 2023. The sessions revolved around the first six episodes of *Eyes on the Prize*.

George Beckerman described how the Viking Gazette Newsletter and the companion Teacher's Guide provide students and teachers resources for implementing HB 198 in the classroom. The Viking Gazette is distributed weekly online to the 2000 students enrolled in Cape Henlopen High School. The Teacher's Guide, also a weekly publication, is distributed to 200 teachers.



Three African Symbols

by Court Jones

Aside from the fact Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism are religions, all of them can trace their philosophical/ideological roots to Africa, the birthplace of homo-sapiens-sapiens. When we think about the history of human beings, the idea of major religions having African roots becomes clear. Anthropologically speaking, the oldest human bones are always found in Africa. Logically, if the oldest bones are found in Africa, then the oldest systems of thought, ways of knowing and being, and the organizing of social and legal structures will be found in Africa, as well. According to Professor James Smalls, the Ankh (symbolic representation of life) has been found in South Africa dating back more than 100,000 years. When those melanated peoples walked or sailed to new lands outside of Africa, they brought with them their ways of knowing and being. Wherever they settled those ways of knowing and being became the foundation for those societies. We are going to review three African symbols: the Ankh, Sankofa and the Nsibidi (symbol for Family). Their universality applying to all peoples and in a variety of ways are reflected in American culture.

In this author's opinion, the most fundamental feature of African culture is 'Community'. Dr Carr, speaking to Kwanzaa, stated, "Community is a precursor for culture". Africans had to be in community for themselves and think deeply and collectively about their experiences and what they meant over the long arc of human existence. The symbols below can be applied to both the level of the individual and the Community, and if we observe our everyday lives, we see their applications embedded; we merely need to observe.

Ankh

Asar Imhotep, in his book Aaluja Vol 1, argues the Ankh is a representation of the thoracic complex in the human body. The head connected to the collarbones and ribcage protected the lungs. The Ankh is a reminder for proper breathing. Why is proper breathing so important, aside from health benefits? Professor Baayinah Bello spoke about

how proper breathing is connected to Divine cycles. When we breathe in, we take in the air that gives us life and we exhale what we don't need, that which is needed by trees and other vegetation for their lives. Our breath is the taking and giving cycle repeated throughout our lives. Breathing is the most basic/simplest reminder of our connection to all life, Earthly and Divine. What happens when we hold our breath? We stop the cycle of giving back. Life is a continuity, a never-ending series of infinite rhythms, weaving in and out of one another. Breath, in its most basic form, is *life connecting life*, a spiritual moment. Dr. Maulana Karenga's book on Ma'at writes how actions are 'Breath for the nose', indicating it gives life to the recipient. Giving life or adding to life is one of the most precious gifts we humans can give to one another and to our Community...life adding to life.



Picture of deity presenting the Ankh to Pharaoh.

Sankofa

The symbol for Sankofa has been found on the ancient Egyptian temple of Hapshepsut but is more identified with the Akan people in West Africa in their Adinkra symbols. The bird is reaching back to find a nearly forgotten nugget and the symbol reminds us to 'go back and fetch it.' There are no problems existing today that were not resolved in the past. Sankofa tells us to study history to learn, reapply and strengthen that which was broken. Once we study the past, Sankofa



encourages us to determine what we are bringing forward and how to implement the knowledge to such a degree it can be made as permanent as possible. We are reminded what once was, can be again, if we only remember.

Nsibidi Symbol for Family

Nsibidi is an ideographic writing language found predominantly in Nigeria, West Africa, which compresses complex ideas into simple characters, and the symbols are woven together to tell an important story or record an event.

Increasingly, we are seeing Nsibidi included in artwork, textiles, and movies like the *Black Panther*. One symbol consists of two interlocking, curved lines representing 'Family.' Literally, the curved lines are a man and a woman intertwined indicating the coming together of a relationship, the fundamental unit for a family and constituent unit for a Community. Today, two are still required, but we are no longer bound by gender. This symbol is found in Ujaama, the fourth day of Kwanza, reminding us to work together collectively to better the community.



As a result of reading the above, we begin to learn the depths our African ancestors observed, not only themselves, but their relationships to one another, the community, nature, and the cosmos. They saw themselves connected to the whole, a part of the natural rhythms and cycles. They built structures and symbols to preserve this information for future generations so that we may receive their breath of life, reapply their knowledge, build and strengthen communities and ultimately heal ourselves to thereby heal our communities. This is because there is no 'I' without 'We' as is reflected in the African Proverb, "I am because we are, and since we are, therefore I Am".

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Black History IS American History

UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE | DELAWARE RACIAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE
BARCLAYS AND DRJC PRESENT

3rd Annual BLACK STUDENT SUMMIT

A full-day gathering to connect and uplift members of Black Student Unions & Associations, Advisors, School administrators and allies that support them as they fight for equity and justice. All races/ethnicities are encouraged to attend.

Saturday | March 23, 2024
Doors open at 9am
Event: 10am - 3pm
Appoquinimink High School - Middletown, DE

NO COST for transportation, lunch, and MORE!
Registration: www.uwde.org/bss

BARCLAYS DRJC COLLABORATIVE



Save the Date
National History Day in Delaware 2024

May 4, 2024
Delaware State University Downtown Campus
120 N State St, Dover, DE 19901

National History Day 2024
Turning Points In History
50

National History Day in Delaware is a state-wide, year-long interdisciplinary program focused on historical research, interpretation, and creative expression for students in grades 6-12.

Judges Needed
email amk@dehistory.org or visit dehistory.org/national-history-day

Delaware HISTORICAL SOCIETY

National History Day in Delaware is proudly sponsored by the Delaware Historical Society.

What Was the Real Issue that Pushed Dr. Claudine Gay to Resign as President of Harvard University?

By Dr. Marlene A. Saunders

The controversy surrounding Dr. Claudine Gay and her resignation as president of Harvard University supports this newsletter's constant plea to readers. That is, take the time to research and grasp the facts pertaining to a situation that frequently are not included in local papers. What is discovered will provide a fuller understanding of situations like the criticisms against Dr. Gay. The importance of this particular state of affairs cannot be overlooked because the assault to her reputation as a scholar, and as an important academic leader represent yet another wedge deliberately created and used to produce an additional "them versus us" scenario. Intentionally inflamed divisions between, for example, educated and blue-collar citizens, white people and African Americans, and poor and rich Americans, have become more pronounced and serious as weapons against democracy and just society. As we approach the 2024 election, we must ask ourselves what kind of federal, state, and local elected officials should be in office to ensure equal access to opportunities for everyone.

Hence, during a period preceding the most important election in the history of the United States, it is essential for voters to be

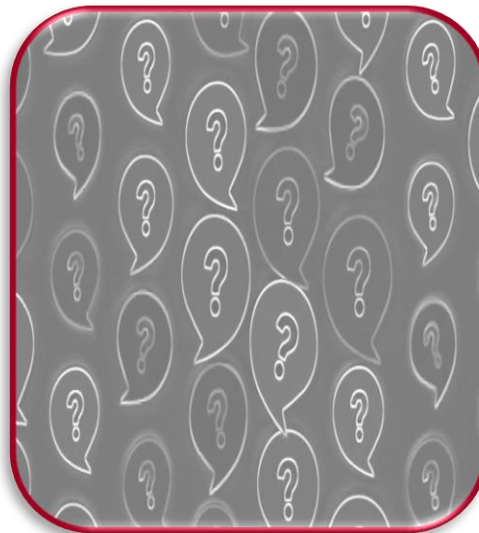
"deep", especially about situations that have political implications for who becomes president and who gets elected in the state of Delaware. Therefore, seek information that uncovers candidates' motivations for the legislation they will choose to sponsor (e.g., restrictions on Black history instruction, zoning that limits location of affordable housing, etc.) and provides insights about the beneficiaries of their platforms.

Knowing the donors to candidates always helps to answer the question: why is this candidate supporting this legislation, program, or policy?

A deep analysis of the campaign against Dr. Claudine Gay reveals that those who relentlessly called for her resignation were not motivated by a truthful desire to maintain Harvard's standards for academic integrity. Nor were their efforts driven by a

transparent and honest desire to preserve established rules regarding plagiarism and citations to acknowledge the scholarship of others used to support the thesis of one's works.

The end goals of Dr. Gay's detractors can be legitimately questioned when, for instance, one considers the finding of the Harvard board, school subcommittee and independent panel responsible for overseeing investigations of plagiarism. Regarding the charges against her, this body



uncovered, “a few instances of inadequate citations,” but “no violations of Harvard’s standards for research conduct.” Also, one of the scholars Gay improperly quoted has spoken out in her defense. David Canon said, “I am not at all concerned about the passages ... This isn’t even close to an example of academic plagiarism.”

Not to be overlooked is how Dr. Gay’s critics conveniently disregarded other high-profile situations involving other scholars who admitted plagiarizing. For example, in 1987, Doris Kerns Goodwin, one of the country’s most respected historians, admitted lifting and using some passages in her book, ‘The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys,’ from three previous works. Subsequently, she and her publishers simply took steps to correct the errors. Thereafter, her books continued to be published and her reputation as one of the country’s leading presidential historians is still intact. In fact, she was just hired by Drew University as a visiting professor.

Indeed, most recently, Neri Oxman, former MIT professor, admitted to plagiarizing part of her doctoral dissertation. In her apology, she acknowledged violating standards of academic integrity and offered to resubmit her dissertation with corrections. She also resigned from a faculty position at the university. It is noteworthy that her husband is Bill Ackerman, the multimillionaire who helped oust Dr. Gay. Here we can ask, how do Dr. Gay’s critics react when the shoe is on the other foot? Responding to the spotlight on his wife for plagiarism, he said, “It is unfortunate that my actions to address problems in higher education have led to these attacks on my family.”

Deeply analyzing the venomous attacks against Dr. Gay after her testimony before the Senate Committee on Education on December 5, 2023, reveals something other than an authentic desire to protect Jews from

antisemitism and terrorist rhetoric supporting genocide on Harvard’s campuses. Representative Elise Stefanik asked Dr. Gay, “Does calling for the genocide of Jews violate Harvard’s rules on bullying and Harvard’s rules on bullying and harassment?” Her response was, “The rules around bullying and harassment are quite specific and if the context in which that language is used amounts to bullying and harassment, then we take action against it.” Here again, the rules resolving complex situations involving academics were not adhered to while discerning Dr. Gay’s response. As a matter of fact, her adversaries neither considered the history of colleges and universities when it comes to protecting free speech for students and faculty, nor did they unbiasedly recognized the parameters used by legal scholars to address the First Amendment when its appropriateness in debatable situations is under review. Thus, Professor Charles Fried said, “I have taught at Harvard Law School since 1961 and began practicing before the Supreme Court in 1985 — for four years as Solicitor General of the United States – and I would have felt professionally obligated to answer as the presidents did. It does depend on context” ([President Gay Was Right: Context Matters | Opinion | The Harvard Crimson \(thecrimson.com\)](#)).

So, what was the real issue behind the zealous crusade to remove Dr. Gay as president of Harvard? Chris Rufo, a conservative activist who was one of the bullhorns for Dr. Gay’s demise provided the answer in no uncertain terms. He said, “This is the beginning of the end for DEI in America’s institutions.” “We will expose you. We will outmaneuver you. And we will not stop fighting until we have restored colorblind equality in our great nation.” After University of Pennsylvania president Elizabeth Magill resigned, another target for Rufo and his allies, GOP Representative Elise

Stephanik said in a tweet, “One down, two to go.”

What does Rufo’s admission mean for African Americans who are still facing racial inequalities in virtually every sector of employment? What does the mission to eliminate a philosophy of equality grounded in diversity, equity and inclusion as a means to ascending to the ideal situation where individuals are chosen for positions in colleges and universities and other sectors based on proven aptitudes rather than color, gender, age, or sexual identity? Here is another important question: Who benefits without DEI as part of the framework to breakdown preferences in employment, housing, healthcare that perpetuate inequalities and exclusion of certain groups in mainstream America?

In its report, the Center for Economic Policy and Research concludes, “White people as a group always have better employment outcomes than similar Black people. Among veterans, people with disabilities, people who were formerly incarcerated, and the foreign-born, the data suggests that employers prefer White candidates over their Black peers. White people fare better in finding employment even when educational attainment, skills, and city of residence are the same.”

Be Informed. Please!

The poster features a colorful, wavy background on the left side. On the right, there is a silhouette of a pregnant woman. The text is centered and provides details about the event, including the date, time, venue, a registration link, a list of speakers, sponsors, and logos of the organizing institutions.

Addressing the Black Maternal Mental Health Narrative in Delaware


Thursday, February 22, 2024
6:30-8:00 PM
Venue: Zoom

Follow this link to register:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/addressing-the-black-maternal-mental-health-narrative-in-delaware-tickets-779863230917>

- Lieutenant Governor **Bethany Hall-Long**, State of Delaware
- Representative **Melissa Minor-Brown**, District 17 & House Majority Leader
- **Shané N. Darby**, Founder & Executive Director, Black Mothers in Power & Wilmington City Councilwoman 2nd District
- **Rachel Wilson**, LCSW, Perinatal Mental Health Therapists & Holistic Doula
- **LaToya Brathwaite-Washington**, MSN, FNP-BC, Founder & Lead Practitioner, Mother, Baby & Beyond, LLC
- **Priscilla Mpasi**, MD, FAAP, Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium
- **Cydney Teal**, MD, CPE, FAAFP, FACP, Delaware Health Equity Coalition
- Representative **Sherry Dorsey Walker**, District 3

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The Reviewer's Corner

Spotlight on African American Authors, Art, and Literature

by Toni A. Barrett

Must See TV: The Wonder Years

You may recall the television show called, *The Wonder Years*, a television series that aired from 1988-1993. Starring Fred Savage as Kevin Arnold, the show depicts the life of a teenager growing up in a suburban middle-class family during the late 60's and early 70's. Narrated by an adult Kevin, the series offers a unique perspective on the challenges and experiences of adolescence, providing the viewers with a glimpse into the past through the eyes of a teenager navigating the complexities of growing up.

Fast forward to 2021. A new version of *The Wonder Years*, which currently airs on Netflix, ran from 2021-2023 and revolves around a Black family. This series was inspired by the 1988 series; however, the cast is Black, and we see the world through the eyes of 12-year-old Dean Williams as he grows up in Montgomery Alabama, during the late 60's. Don Cheadle is the voice of Dean, who is played by Elisha (EJ) Williams. Other cast members include Dule Hill as Dean's father, Saycon Sengbloh as Dean's mother and Laura Kariuki as Dean's older sister. It's interesting to note, for the first season, one of the directors/producers of this newer version of *The Wonder Years*, was

Fred Savage, star of the original version, who was later fired for inappropriate behavior. Lee Daniels remained an Executive Producer.



[\(netflixlife.com\)](https://www.netflixlife.com/)

The show delves into a variety of the issues from a young Black person's perspective in the early 60's, addressing topics like the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., school

desegregation, The Vietnam War, family dynamics, friendships and, of course, young love.

A worthwhile watch for families, offering a shared experience that resonates with those who lived through the challenges of that era. It not only evokes nostalgic memories for those who grew up during those times, but also provides valuable insights for those who didn't. By exploring the events of the past, the show fosters an understanding of how they continue to influence our lives today.

So, grab your family, grab some popcorn, and watch this worthwhile and entertaining series now streaming on Netflix.



Netflix is a paid television streaming service. Let The Truth Be Told does not own the rights or controls for this service.

THERE'S MORE
to the Story

James Weldon Johnson

1871 - 1938

Poet and Songwriter

by Kathy M. Trusty



Lift Every Voice and Sing, known as the Black National Anthem, was first performed as part of a birthday celebration for Abraham Lincoln.

On February 12, 1900, students at Stanton Institute, a school for Black children in Jacksonville, Florida, performed the song for Booker T Washington to celebrate President Lincoln's birthday.

The song was written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson and set to music by his brother, J Rosamond Johnson.

James Weldon Johnson, who was a poet and songwriter, was born in Jacksonville, Florida on June 17, 1871. He attended Stanton Institute and later worked as a teacher and became principal of the school. While working as an educator, he studied law, and in 1898, became the first Black person admitted to the Florida Bar since Reconstruction.

Johnson was also a diplomat and civil rights activist. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him US Consul in Venezuela and three years later US Consul in Nicaragua.

He joined the NAACP in 1915 and became a field secretary two years later. On July 28, 1917, he led a “Silent March” down Fifth Avenue in New York City. The March, which drew over 10,000 participants, was organized by Johnson to protest the lynching of Black Americans. During the march, the only sound heard was the beat of drums.

After the Silent March, participants, including Johnson and Madam CJ Walker, signed a petition asking Congress and President Woodrow Wilson to make lynching a national crime. The group traveled to Washington, DC to present the petition to President Wilson on August 1, 1917. They were told President Wilson was too busy to see them.

In 1920, Johnson became Executive Secretary of the NAACP. He used his role as head of the largest civil rights organization in the country to fight against segregation and violence against Black Americans. He also continued his campaign against lynching and urged Congress to pass the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill.

The House of Representatives passed the Bill on January 26, 1922. It failed in the Senate where it was filibustered by Southern Democrats. It would be more than 100 years before the federal government passed anti-lynching legislation.

March 28, 2022
President Joe Biden signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act.

While James Weldon Johnson was best known for his work with the NAACP in the early 1900s, he also established himself as a writer and authored several books including:

Poetry

- Fifty Years and Other Poems (1917)
- God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse (1927)
- Saint Peter Relates an Incident: Selected Poems (1935)

Anthologies

- The Book of American Negro Poetry (1922)
- The Book of Negro Spirituals (1925)
- The Second Book of Negro Spirituals (1926)

Other Books

- The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man (1912/1927)
- Black Manhattan (1930)
- Negro Americans, What Now? (1934)
- Along This Way: The Autobiography of James Weldon Johnson (1933)

Today, James Weldon Johnson is primarily celebrated as the man who created the Black National Anthem.




Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing by JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.



Register to vote.

Vote In All Elections, including school board and all local elections. In addition, voting up and down the ticket (national offices as well as local offices).

Vote Early.

Become Informed about all the candidates in terms of their positions on issues that are important to your well-being and the well-being of your family and community. Then choose your candidate. If a candidate is running for re-election, become informed about the extent to which the legislation he/she voted for and against as well as the legislation they sponsored or co-sponsored kept the promises he/she made while campaigning.

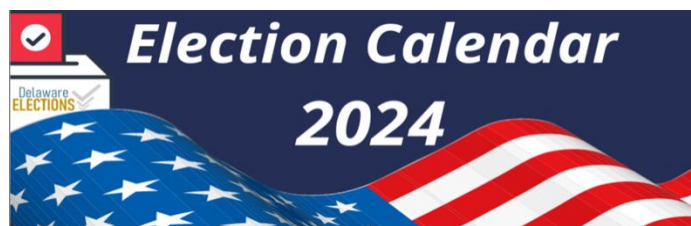
Be Engaged. That is, attend forums in which candidates are participating, ask questions and ask to meet with them.

Join a Legislative Advocacy Organization, e.g., League of Women Voters, Women's March, and attend and participate in the meetings.

Develop Relationships with Individuals Outside Your Racial/Ethnic Group.

Attend School Board, County Council, City Council Meetings.

Elections belong to the people.
It's their decision. If they decide
to turn their back on the fire and
burn their behinds, then they will
just have to sit on their blisters.
Abraham Lincoln.



2024 State of Delaware Election Calendar

The Department of Elections has prepared and published this calendar as an informational tool for the citizens of Delaware. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information presented in this calendar is correct, any questions or request for clarification and additional information regarding any date or event should be directed to the Department of Elections at (302) 739-4277 or COE_Vote@delaware.gov. This calendar is subject to change in the event of revisions to applicable Delaware law.

[For the complete calendar, please click here.](#)

February 7, 2024 – DEADLINE to change political party affiliation before the April 2, 2024, Presidential Primary Election.

March 1, 2024 - DEADLINE for candidates for school board elections to file notice of candidacy.

March 9, 2024 - DEADLINE to register to vote before the April 2, 2024, Presidential Primary Election.

March 20, 2024, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Early Voting Period for Presidential Primary Election begins. Check the website for locations of Early Voting Sites in each county.

April 1, 2024 - DEADLINE for Department of Elections County Offices to issue absentee ballots for the April 2, 2024, Presidential Primary Election.

April 2, 2024 - Presidential Primary Election. Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

May 14, 2024 - School Board Elections. Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.