



SAN FRANCISCO

African American Historical & Cultural Society

**SAN FRANCISCO
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORICAL &
CULTURAL SOCIETY**

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Eldoris Cameron & Ginger
Smyly, Co-editors

Al Williams, President
William Hoskins,
Executive Director

Photos: courtesy of W.
Hoskins, A. Ashley-Ward,
Courageous, NY Public
Library, G. Smyly, SFAC

We deplore and grieve the mass killings in Buffalo and Uvalde. We deplore violence and hate of any kind.

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Society Board members Thor Kaslofsky and Marisa Williams have recently resigned; Thor to become the new Executive Director for the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII) and Marisa, relocating to New York to continue her career with Swinerton Builders. Both have been major contributors to the success of the Society during their tenures. Thor was the driving force behind our videotaping and broadcasting of the Society's recent Black History Month Kickoff Program. Marisa created the partnership between the Society and Citizen Film that produced films based on the annual BHM themes. She also hosted several BHM Kickoff programs at City Hall. Shawna Sherman, Manager, African American Center Main Branch, San Francisco Public Library has been appointed until elections can occur. Congratulations, Thor and Marisa and Welcome, Shawna.

We are grateful to Thor and Marisa for their contributions. Without them we would not have been as successful as we have been in educating African Americans and the general public about the history and culture of African Americans in San Francisco and beyond. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

As we consider filling these vacancies, we are mindful that a well-functioning Board of Directors is essential for the Society not only to meet legal requirements, but also to achieve its goals. It is the Board's responsibility to ensure that the Society has the leadership it needs to fulfill its mission. That leadership continuity and effectiveness is secured through a well-planned Board recruitment process that results in attracting highly skilled, committed and participative Board members.

Effective recruitment is a continuous process that will enable the Board to maintain an up-to-date list of potential board candidates with particular skills they can bring to the organization. The Board approved a recruitment process including a committee to recruit prospective Board members to fill current vacancies by August 2022. The Committee will be mindful of the Society's current priorities, which include:

- Al Williams,
President

- Developing communications programs to promote the work of the Society
- Developing community-based educational programs, activities and exhibits
- Planning to meet the Society's short- and long-term facility needs
- Raising funds to cover the cost of Society programs and operations
- Hiring staff to implement the Society's programs activities and exhibits

The Recruitment Committee will lay the groundwork for a Board Development Committee to be charged with the ongoing identification and prequalification of prospective Directors. The goal in both instances will be to identify a widely diverse group of prospective applicants who possess the knowledge, skills, relationships, resources, personality and commitment to contribute to growth and development of the Society.

This is where **you** can play an important role in the process. If you are interested in serving on the Society’s Board of Directors, please go to the [Society](#) and complete a Prospective Directors form. Or, if you know someone who you believe would make an excellent Board member, encourage them go to the website and complete the form. Given the climate we live in today, the work of Society - educating African Americans and others about African American history and culture – is more important than ever. Thank you for your interest in and support of this important work of the Society.

PRAISESINGER CHECK OUT THE SOCIETY

In this issue:

- ✓ Supreme Court Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson
- ✓ Redistricting
- ✓ Amelia Ashley-Ward, *The Sun Reporter*
- ✓ “Black Health and Wellness”, The Past and Present
- ✓ And more

Visit the Society updated [website](#) for Black History, resources and events.

[FACEBOOK](#) is up-to-date too!

Check your email inbox for Society emails with news and updates. Make the Society (info@sfaahcs.org) a trusted contact in your email address book.

The Society’s first virtual exhibit, “The Black Family Through Artists Eyes” is still available to view at <https://sfaahcs-vs.org>.

SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, APRIL 2022

Thanks to our members for a lively annual membership meeting, held April 3, 2022. President Al Williams presented priorities for 2022 and asked for input. Priority areas are listed in Williams’ article above. Members went to break-out rooms in which suggestions on these priority areas were discussed. Board members will serve as point persons for each of the areas:

- Communications (website, emails, newsletter, Facebook): Addie Renee Lewis
- Programs: Ginger Smyly
- Governance and Funding: Al Williams

TIME TO VOTE

“Black Health and Wellness” (2022 Black History Month theme) addresses the history of health care in the African American community and highlights interconnected social, political and economic determinants. The theme not only honors the legacy of Black scholars and medical practitioners but underscores the importance of political activism in the pursuit of health and wellness.

As we struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic, violent conflicts, natural disasters, hunger, we are witnessing a resurgence of efforts by lawmakers to create new bureaucratic and economic hurdles to the ballot designed to impede voters. 400 bills with provisions restricting voting access have been introduced in 49 states during the 2021 legislative sessions. A parallel rise in Hate Antigovernment groups openly decrying democracy underscores the importance of protecting and using our voting rights.

- *William Hoskins, Executive Director*

Civil rights legislation would not have passed without the vote. Without the vote there would not have been the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) signed into law on March 23, 2010. That act significantly changed the US healthcare system by reducing the amount individuals and families pay in uncompensated care. This in turn has a most positive impact on health and wellness issues in the minority community.



Our communities are still experiencing mental health crises and barriers like stigma, delayed diagnosis of mood disorders and the cost and lack of culturally competent treatment. To ensure the wellbeing of our families, communities and country, we must not underestimate the importance of the vote. Our next opportunity to have an impact will be the June 7th California Primary Election followed by the midterm elections in November and the critically important Presidential Election in 2024. We should take this opportunity to not only make a difference ourselves but to challenge others to do likewise.

“All our dreams can come true if we work hard and have what it takes to pursue them...”

**REDISTRICTING:
PRESERVING OUR
VOICES**

- *Ginger Smyly*

Every ten years following the Federal Census, most legislative districts review current boundaries and may change them according to updated demographics. Redistricting is meant to validate the changing jurisdiction demographics. Redistricting has served to silence or amplify the voting power of certain groups.

Hearing experts and community, the San Francisco Redistricting Task Force endorsed a new map of the 10 Supervisorial Districts. African Americans and other marginalized groups, particularly in the Western Addition where both African- and Japanese Americans have business, faith, community organizations and residents are no longer at risk of losing their voice at the Board of Supervisors. The current process has not

been without harm; some from other neighborhoods expressed that their voices were still unheard.

Task Force Chair, Arnold Townsend stated that the sometimes “vitriolic” language used in public comment was justified in light of the perceived threat to quiet the voices of marginalized groups. For [more](#).

HONORABLE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON – NEXT U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE!

On April 7, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson was confirmed by the United States Senate as the 116th Justice to the Supreme Court. The Senate vote was 53 – 47. As the voting was in progress, members of the Congressional Black Caucus sat on benches around the outer edge of the Senate floor. Judge Jackson awaited the Senate vote with President Joe Biden in the White House. Vice President Kamala Harris presided over the Senate for the historic vote while being the first Black Vice-President in U.S. history. Ketanji Brown Jackson became the first Black woman confirmed Supreme Court Justice after the 233-year history of the Supreme Court.

Judge Ketanji Jackson currently sits on DC’s federal appellate court. She previously worked as a clerk for Justice Breyer who will retire from the Supreme Court this summer. Judge Jackson was a federal public defender, an attorney in private practice, a federal district court judge, and a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

- *Eldoris Cameron*

Celebrating Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson’s victory at the White House on Friday, April 9 were: her husband of 25 years, Dr. Patrick G. Jackson; two daughters, Leila and Talia Jackson; brother, Ketajh Brown, associate at the law firm K & L Gates’ Chicago Office; parents, Johnny and Ellery Brown, married for 54 years. Father, Johnny Brown, Esq. earned a law degree from the University of Miami Law School.

Ketanji Brown Jackson takes her oath of office as a Supreme Court Justice this summer after Breyer’s retirement as we take *“One step closer to a more perfect Union.”*

DAVID JOHNSON EXHIBIT

The San Francisco Arts Commission graces the galleries of City Hall with David Johnson’s photographs from 1945-1965. An exhibit kickoff was held on May 25. These black and white photographs depict Black San Francisco life during the era of the wane of Harlem West to the start of redevelopment in the Western Addition.

Johnson is a long-time LIFE member of the Society and is one of the remaining artists of the Harlem West era.

AAMLO RECALLS BLACK PRESENCE BEFORE WW II.

In the late 1970s, the Society and partners conducted oral interviews with “Afro Americans Residing in San Francisco Prior to WWII.” Visit the [website](#) and read about early 20th century Blacks in their own words. Thanks, AAMLO.

**AMELIA ASHLEY-WARD:
GUIDING SPIRIT OF THE
SUN-REPORTER**



Amelia Ashley-Ward with
Kamala Harris

- *Max Millard*

The *Sun-Reporter* Newspaper has remained alive and relevant mainly through the efforts of three individuals: Thomas C. Fleming, founding editor; Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, longtime publisher; and Amelia Ashley-Ward, owner since 1997. Ashley-Ward continues to guide the paper through the challenges of the Internet Age. With its focus on articles written by and for African Americans, the *Sun-Reporter* presents a different worldview from the mainstream press. A single issue in January 2022 featured stories about Barry Bonds, African American state controller candidate Malia Cohen, the promised appointment of a black woman to the Supreme Court, Ronald Reagan's disastrous policy on mental illness and its effect on homelessness, the threat to affirmative action at universities, the censorship of black authors in schools, and Donald Trump's false claim about discrimination against white people for access to COVID-19 vaccines.....

Born Amelia Ashley in Magnolia, MS, she moved to San Francisco with her family at age 5. She attended local public schools; in 1979 she graduated from San Jose State University with a B. A. in journalism and photojournalism. During her senior year, she began an internship at the *Sun-Reporter* and was hired there as a reporter, editor and photographer. She has been since, rising to publisher upon Dr. Goodlett's retirement in 1994. After his death, she purchased the paper from his son Garry Goodlett.

She married Lovie A. Ward, the son of Lovie Lee and Minnie Ward, prominent community activists. They devoted their lives to improving the OMI neighborhood (Ocean View-Merced Heights-Ingleside), and in 2008, after their deaths, they were honored with the opening of the \$17 million Minnie & Lovie Ward Recreation Center at 650 Capitol Avenue. Amelia and Lovie later divorced, and Lovie died in 2008. Their son, Evan Carlton Ward, is a prominent journalist in his own right at age 29.

Ashley-Ward has received numerous honors during her 43-year journalism career, included the 1980 Photojournalism Award and in 1981, Feature Writing Award from the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), in 1997, Ward received the Woman of the Year award from the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce, and in 1998 was named NNPA Publisher of the Year. In 2004, San Jose State University honored her as Alumna of the Year, and in 2021 awarded her an honorary doctorate in humane letters.

In 2016 she received the CEDAW Women's Human Rights Media Award from the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) Their proclamation reads: "Whereas, One of the few women newspaper publishers in the country, Amelia Ashley-Ward has had a long and distinguished career in journalism dedicated to a vibrant African American press in San Francisco."

Among her proudest achievements is her support of two of the most successful black

female politicians in California history: San Francisco Mayor London Breed and Vice President Kamala Harris. In December 2017, following the sudden death of Mayor Ed Lee, Breed, became the interim mayor. The following month, claiming that the position would give Breed an unfair advantage in the next election, the board of supervisors voted to appoint a white venture capitalist, Mark Farrell, to replace her as acting mayor.

Ashley-Ward said: “When did a Black woman raised in public housing get an advantage over anyone? London Breed isn’t begging for hand-me-downs, but this is another reason that the Black Press will live forever, because of injustices like this and my newspaper will keep this on the front page and we are going to call it like we see and no one else will do that.”

Her friendship with Kamala Harris goes back to about 2004, when the pair met at a women’s conference. Speaking at the *Sun-Reporter’s* 75th anniversary celebration in 2019, Harris recounted: “But one voice spoke loudly and said, ‘I know it is your time, and I will have your back.’ And that was Amelia Ashley-Ward.” Ashley-Ward recalled: “She called me one day [and] said, ‘Amelia, I’m not gonna win.’ I said, ‘Well, let’s see about that. You can win.’ So I got a cable car for about three or four hours. I put other African American leaders on that cable car; Kamala got on, and we drove all across the city. She won that election big time.”

As Harris rose rapidly in her career to become California attorney general and U.S. senator, they met each other’s friends and families, supported each other through the deaths of their mothers, and joined each other for girlfriend lunches, Warriors games and concerts in Oakland. One day before Joe Biden officially won the 2020 presidency, Ashley-Ward texted her congratulations to Harris. The vice president-elect quickly responded: “We’ve been on this journey for a long time. Thank you, Sister Amelia, love you very much.”

Ashley-Ward realizes that the days of print journalism are waning, but she plans to continue the paper in its printed form as long as possible. Then, if necessary, she will take it online. “I’m adapting to the Web and I feel that we are still a few years away from being totally profitable with digital,” she said in 2018. “But, we must understand that we have an obligation to let our advertisers know that we are newspapers. We print newspapers and we can’t afford to shut down what we’ve been doing that’s kept the business going.”

Resources:

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/education/news-wires-white-papers-and-books/ashley-ward-amelia-1957>

Sun-Reporter, January 27, 2022

Continued, page 8



“Voting Rights Are Human Rights,” Courageous

BLACK HEALTH & WELLNESS, THE PAST: PACIFIC PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES

San Francisco and Third Baptist Church have been the sites of many historical events for African Americans. One in particular captured the works of William Grier, MD and Price Cobbs, MD, noted psychiatrists. The program and honorees follows below.

- *Eldoris Cameron*

Pacific Psychotherapy Associates

Presents Their Annual Civic Ceremony

Saturday June 10, 1978, 5 PM
The Third Baptist Church
1399 McAllister Street
San Francisco

Sponsored by Lia Triff Belli

Pacific Psychotherapy Associates, Inc. is a private nonprofit agency dedicated to the concept and reality of community psychiatry. Founded in 1965 by William Grier, M. D., and Price Cobbs, M. D., psychiatrists and authors of Black Rage and the Jesus Bag, PPA boasts one of the most prestigious staffs of third world, clinically experienced professionals in the country. Initially founded to deal specifically with the black community, PPA's community approach has attracted a significant number of non-black patients and therapists. Today it is in theory, practice and staffing a multi-racial multi-talented and firmly established institution.

Lia Triff Belli (Mrs. Melvin Belli), Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Directors is sponsoring the First Annual Civic Ceremony for PPA. Special Honorees will accept awards for their contributions to society and for their pioneering effort in their fields.

The Honored Guests are:

MARION ANDERSON: The internationally famous concert soloist, Miss Anderson has the distinction of being the first black to sing at the Metropolitan Opera, and has performed at several presidential inaugural

balls. Accepting for Marian Anderson is **MR. WILLIAM WARFIELD**. Mr. Warfield has achieved international fame as a motion picture and Broadway singer. His outstanding musical career has included concert solos for the New York City opera.

THE HONORABLE JULIAN BOND: The eloquent young Georgia State Senator who symbolizes the "New Politics" is one of the most respected and requested speakers in America. He is a civil rights leader, and founder of the Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee.

DICK GREGORY: A man of unique and varied talents he is an author, actor, human rights activist, social satirist, philosopher, and more.

ALEX HALEY: Distinguished historian and writer, Alex Haley's epic novel Roots affected thousands of Americans, and started a surge of interest in genealogy. Roots was made into a major television event, watched by some 60 million Americans.

RALPH NADER: The leading authority on consumer affairs, he has established consumer action on issues ranging from auto safety to environmental abuses to the monitoring of governmental officials.

ALVIN POUSSAINT, M. D.: One of the country's leading psychiatrists, Dr. Poussaint is a psychiatry professor at Harvard, distinguished writer, and influential spokesman for black incentive programs.

PATRON:

Guillermo Nasser Q., Pres.
Centro de Comercio Internacional,
International Trade Center
Tijuana, Mexico
Ferias y Exposiciones de Baja California, S.A.

Continued, ASHLEY WARD

Resources:

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Minnie-Ward-helped-clean-up-Ocean-View-area-2589691.php>

<https://sfgov.org/dosw/resolution-recognizing-2016-cedaw-awards-honoree-amelia-ashley-ward>

<http://seattlemedium.com/it-had-to-be-you-publisher-on-her-respect-and-commitment-to-vice-president-elect-harris/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chauncey_Bailey

<https://representcollaborative.com/stories/amelia-ashley-ward-sun-reporter>

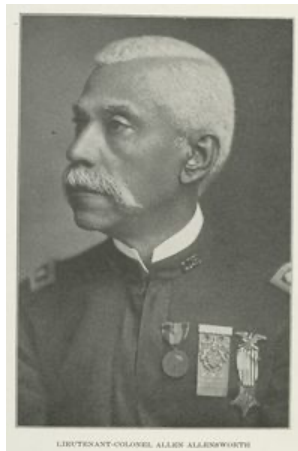
<https://www.charlestonchronicle.net/2018/02/08/nnpa-foundation-chair-and-sun-reporter-publisher-amelia-ashley-ward-talks-about-london-breed-and-the-black-press/>

<https://www.outsidelands.org/ward-lovie.php>

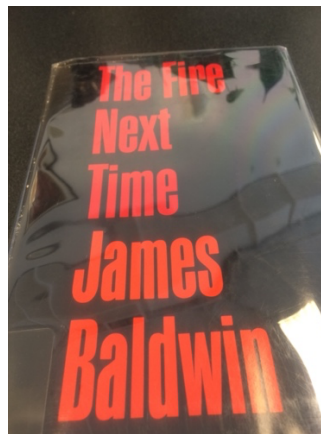
Sun-Reporter, Dec. 30, 2021, page 1.

IN THE ARCHIVES

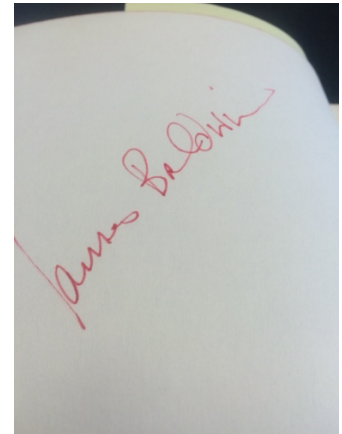
Below: Photo of Colonel Allen Allensworth available digitally from the New York Public Library. Allensworth and others established Allensworth, the most well-known Black township in California.... This hardback copy of the *Fire Next Time* with Baldwin’s signature can be found in the Society library along with many other one-of-kind and author-autographed and inscribed books.



Colonel Allensworth



The Fire Next Time cover



& author signature

Praisesinger, March, 2022
Correction:
Arthur H. Coleman, MD,
Esq. not MD, Psy

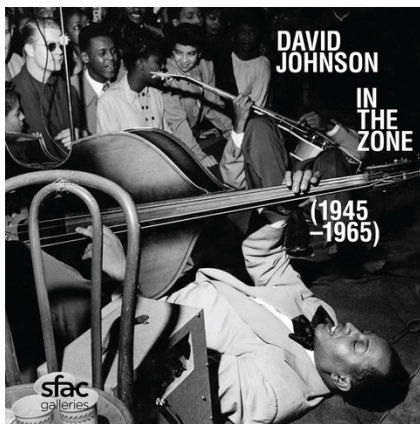
AFRICAN AMERICAN CENTER – SFPL

The African American Center of the San Francisco Public Library is a space for Black culture, history and learning. The Center hosts a collection of more than 5,000 books and regular exhibits. The Center partners with community to host engaging programming. The staff of two librarians are available to connect you with information. The Center is open 7-days a week on the 3rd floor of the Main Library. Contact: aac@sfpl.org or sign-up for the Center’s monthly email [newsletter](#).

SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS & OTHER INFO

Visit us at www.sfaahcs.org The Society's first virtual exhibit, "The Black Family Through Artists Eyes" is still available to view at <https://sfaahcs-vs.org>.

- ✓ Society Library & Gallery Reopening
Details to follow
- ✓ Juneteenth Observation, Gilman Park, SF
Sunday, June 19
- ✓ David Johnson, "In the Zone, 1945-1965" at City Hall, May 19, 2022 - June 6, 2023



David Johnson, in the Zone

- ✓ Official Obama Portraits at DeYoung Museum June 18- August 14



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

(Your annual membership term is January 1 through December 31.)

LIFE members, your donation is appreciated

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ **CELL** _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Please sign me up as a:

_____ Student	\$15	_____ Organizations	\$2
			50
_____ Senior	\$25	_____ Small Business	\$3
			50
_____ Adult	\$50	_____ Large Business	\$7
			00
_____ Family	\$100	_____ Donor	

**If you do not plan to be an active member, please make a donation

Donation: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible

Make Your Check Payable/Mail To:

San Francisco African American Historical & Cultural Society

762 Fulton Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.292.6172

I am interested in serving on the committee(s):

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ Development | _____ Library/archives |
| _____ Membership | _____ Programs |
| _____ Black History Month | _____ Communications |
| _____ Volunteer/Reception | _____ Other |

BLACK HEALTH & WELFARE, THE PRESENT: COVID – UNEQUAL IMPACT

- *Editors*



Society's Black History Month logo

As we “live with the virus”, it is time to reflect on why the epidemic impacted us more than our white peers: Black communities experience higher rates of infection, serious disease and death; fewer people have been vaccinated. Sherita Golden, endocrinologist at Johns Hopkins University/Medicine cites:

- Crowded housing conditions: how to social distance when a family member is ill?
- “Essential” workers: cleaning, food services, transportation, home health, etc., put workers in close contact with the public, some infected or ill with COVID.
- Chronic health conditions/lack of consistent health care: diabetes, heart and lung diseases are risk factors for morbidity and mortality from COVID; lack of access to health care often leads to and exacerbates these diseases.
- Stress and immunity:
 “... stress has a physiological effect on the body’s ability to defend itself against disease. *Income inequality, discrimination, violence and institutional racism* contribute to chronic stress ... wear down immunity...more vulnerable to infectious disease.” (editor’s stress)

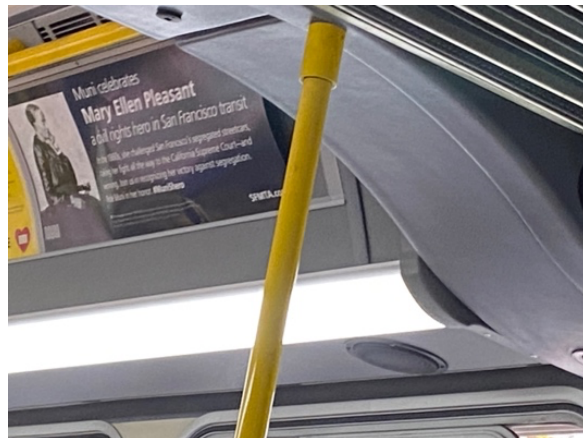
Dr. Golden urges that we address the current crisis – get vaccinated, reduce the risk of infection; go early for testing and treatment. We must address the underlying causes with policy change – policy to redress systems of discrimination that impact African Americans and other people of color.

Read more from [Dr. Golden and Johns Hopkins](#)

Continued, Pacific
 Psychotherapy Associates

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- bob wallach, esp.
- David Williams, Esq.
- Stephen Matthews, Stephen Matthews Productions, Ltd.



Spotted on a MUNI bus: “MUNI Celebrates **Mary Ellen Pleasant**, a civil rights hero in transit”