



S A N F R A N C I S C O
*African American
Historical & Cultural Society*

Praisesinger Newsletter, Fall 2019

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings members and friends. I am grateful to the volunteers whose commitment has kept us going for 64 years in the San Francisco community. The Society is open for several hours a week, Tuesday – Saturday, thanks to Ginger Smyly, Carol J. Yates, Artiste Cooper, Kiwan Gore, Al Williams and Bill Hoskins. Our website has been updated thanks to Micky Lee, webmaster and Max Millard, Society member, with vital input from Ginger Smyly.

Check it out at www.sfaahcs.org

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020

The SFAAHCS citywide Black History Planning Committee is preparing a month-long program of activities with the theme, *African Americans and the Vote*. A San Francisco sub-theme will lend focus. Once again, Marisa Williams, a “legacy” member and Society Board member, is heading up the committee.

The annual Black History Month Kick-Off is scheduled for Friday, 6, 2020, noon, at City Hall. A keynote speaker is to be announced. Several receptions are planned. Dr. William Hoskins, Executive Director and Curator, will mount a complementary exhibit in our Library and Gallery. A new video short will build on African American migration stories. A series of genealogy workshops is scheduled throughout the month, as are other surprises.

Contact Marisa Williams at the Society, email: info@sfaahcs.org, or call 415-292-6172.

GALLERY NEWS

CROWNS OF GLORY, 1 Corinthians 11:15

The “Crowns of Glory” opening exhibit and reception at the Society gallery was on July 31. Photos of reception guests appear on this edition’s last pages. Dr. Bill Hoskins, Curator and Executive Director, put research and love into developing this beautiful exhibit. Our churches and social events are well known and recognized for fashionable hat statements, a part of our African American culture. The exhibit ends on December 31. Society members, civic and social club members, and church groups are welcome to bring their families to see this important exhibit and can reserve an afternoon at the Gallery. Call and leave a message: 415-292-6172.

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Eldoris Cameron

PAINT PARTY AND FUNDRAISER

The Society and “Paint with Nia” invite you to an afternoon champagne sip and painting with Virginia Jourdan, featured artist of the Society exhibit, “Crowns of Glory” on Saturday, November 23rd from 3:30 – 6:00 pm. Go to www.paintwithnia.com/?p=970 to register. OR contact Nia at 510-695-3712 Price \$39

“CROWNS OF GLORY” CLOSING RECEPTION

Come to a holiday reception and auction on Thursday, December 12 at 5:30 - 8 pm. in the Society’s Gallery, Refreshments, music, a silent auction of some gorgeous period hats, and sale of some of Virginia Jourdan’s paintings. Register by email to info@sfaahcs.org or call 415-292-6172. Both events at 762 Fulton Street, San Francisco.

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Bill Hoskins

Make it festive: Wear Your Hat!!! Or Crown!!!

THE 1619 PROJECT

Remember the name Nichole Hannah-Jones. She is one of the most prolific writers at the intersection of race and public policy. She has won a McArthur Grant, a National Magazine Award, a Peabody, and a Polk Award. This African American woman is a correspondent for the *New York Times* and the creator of the 1619 Project.

She brought to her editors the idea of celebrating the 400th Anniversary of slavery in America. The enslavement of Africans fueled the economic and political powerhouse that the United States became, supporting the agricultural economy, picking the cotton, even building the nation's capital.

Her editors at the *N Y Times* embraced her idea, that a national initiative is important to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of slavery in America. They embellished it and gave her a central role, sending her on a nation-wide tour that is currently in progress. The project was launched in New York City on August 13; it was in Detroit September 4, and in Chicago on October 7. I am sure a coalition of African American organizations can get her here too

The August 18 issue of the *New York Times* produced a 1619 project supplement. Its articles examine the story of slavery in America and the many ways that its legacy continues to define our nation.

To learn more about this project, type "1619 Project" in your browser search window. You will find Hannah-Jones being interviewed on news channels KQED, CNN, and others; the entire 1619 Project supplement published in the *New York Times*; and resources for teachers to share with their students. Hannah-Jones put these documents online to be accessible to people who do not subscribe to the journal.

continued, 1619

Here is the story. Four hundred years ago, on August 20, 1619, a ship carrying about 20 enslaved Africans arrived in Point Comfort, in the British Colony of Virginia. The *New York Times*, a respected News organization, had the information vetted by an independent panel of experts, particularly since this information is potentially explosive. History books will need to be revised to show that African Americans arrived before the 1620 *Mayflower*, when the pilgrims arrived. Those first Africans arrived in 1619, the year before!

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Fannie Wiley Preston, Ph.D.

2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN MULTIMEDIA CONFERENCE

Iconoclast Productions is launching the African American Multimedia Conference, February 14 through February 17, 2020, in many Bay Area locations, and produced in conjunction with the African American Center of San Francisco Public Library, the *BayView* newspaper, Synergy Moon, and, ReaderFest. The conference aim is to help community artists access technology for creating and promoting their art. Artists include: independent music producers, singers, rappers, songwriters, filmmakers, graphic designers, and the interested public. Panel discussions, technology workshops, lectures, and fun activities for youth are on the fare. Among honored guests are Bram Stoker Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Linda D. Addison, (first Black winner,) Platinum Award Winning Hip-Hop Artist Rappin 4Tay, Artist Kevin E. Myrick; Afrosurrealist Writer Award Winner Sumiko Saulson; Afrosurrealist Artist Bushmama Africa, gospel and hip-hop artists V'Launce Davis and Lil Twain. The Opening is free and open to the public and will take place at Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library, (Civic Center) 1- 6 pm, Friday, February 14, 2020. Visit <http://www.aammc.org>, or email aamulticon@yahoo.com.

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Amy Holloway

100TH ANNIVERSARIES!!!!

**NEGRO TRAILBLAZERS OF CALIFORNIA
DELILAH BEASLEY**

Published in 1919, "Negro Trail Blazers of California" is a monumental history of African Americans who first came with Spaniards in the 1770s, through 1915, a first of its kind. It describes a who's who of Negro pioneers, the work they did to advance equality in the State, and uphold culture, education, various professions, and civil rights, including the human right to freedom. The Society co-sponsored the 1968 reprinting. Now over one hundred years old, the book is found in most libraries and digitally at several websites.

On October 20, Shawna Sherman of the San Francisco Public Library and Ginger Smyly of the Society gave a presentation about the book, the author, Delilah Beasley, and some unknown stories at the main branch. The presentation will be made available again during Black History Month 2020.

SOCIETY ARCHIVE TREASURES

At the end of an afternoon of sifting through documents from the last 7 decades, a final box of the day was pulled off the shelf. Entrusted to us in the late 1990s, we uncovered the story of the three Mansfield brothers who all served in W.W. I., two as sailors and one in the infantry. We found snapshots of African American soldiers in uniform at Verdun and Longuyon, dated 1919; shots of various ships at various ports, one decorated with flags, and labeled, "November 11, 1918;" clippings of newspaper articles written about and by Charles and Otis from the field; typed letters from Charles to his mother from France; and more. As I held these photos, it dawned on me, "These are one hundred years old."



2 soldiers, Charles Mansfield on right

The Society archive reflects the African American story. The African American presence is diminishing in San Francisco. We must ensure that our history is not erased.

The archive and library need your loving care and attention. Do you have an idea for a permanent location? Want to help preserve the archive? Contact Ginger Smyly at the Society.

415-292-6172 or info@sfaahcs.org

WWW.SFAAHCS.ORG

If you are reading the *Praisesinger* from your computer or phone, you have just traveled to the Society's newly revised website.

Thanks to long-time member, Max Millard, we have had the services of Micky Lee, who has edited our site and brought it up to date. We think the revised website has more than useful information, drawing on Society resources.

If you want to contribute to the website (we need anything on "African American Notables,") or if you have feedback, email us at info@sfaahcs.org.

Thanks, Micky!!!!

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Ginger Smyly

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Continued, membership news

Look for the annual membership drive and new member benefits and offers. Kiwan successfully organized the recent “Harriet” film preview, which many Society members attended.

You don't want to miss out, JOIN TODAY!

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID JOHNSON

On October 17, the San Francisco Recreation & Parks approved the naming of the **David Johnson Photo Lab & Library** at the Harvey Milk Photo Center. A past Society President, David Johnson was a civil rights photographer from 1946 through the 1960s. His photos portray African American society, urban life, and the Fillmore jazz culture. His work helped ensure fairness and equal opportunity at SF Unified School District. We are so proud of our own David Johnson at age 93!

SOCIETY AT “HARRIET,” MOVIE PREVIEW

Kiwan Gore organized a movie date with 16 members to see “**Harriet**,” on the evening of October 29 at the Century 9 Theater in downtown San Francisco. Allied Global Marketing extended the invitation to the Society.

“**Harriet**” is a major motion picture about the early life of Harriet Tubman, a true freedom fighter, who lead over 300 enslaved people from bondage.

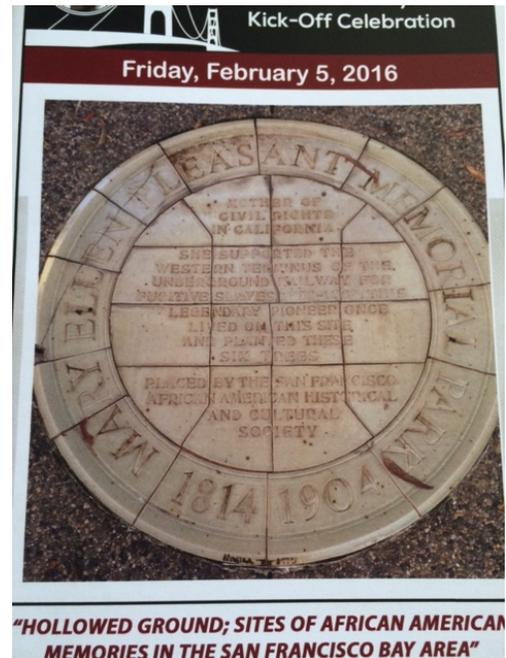
CHANGEMAKERS BOOK LAUNCH SUCCESS

Ella Hill Hutch Community Center was the site of the **Changemakers** book launch on September 12. Community consultants, the Society, & the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service & the Common Good at the University of San Francisco made this venture a reality along with corporate sponsors. USF students researched and wrote the book about the San Francisco African American ‘changemakers’ whose pictures grace the exterior of Ella Hill Hutch Community Center. All guests received a free copy of the book and enjoyed a buffet meal.

See **Changemakers** at the Society library and at the Public Library.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Kiwan Gore, “legacy” member and newly on the Society Board, is our new membership coordinator.



From the sfaahcs website

San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society

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Fall 2019 Newsletter Editors:

ELDORIS CAMERON & GINGER SMYLY

Photos: Eldoris Cameron, Ginger Smyly

President: Al Williams

Executive Director: William Hoskins

Secretary: Carl Williams

Membership application at www.sfaahcs.org

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Snapshots from the Opening Reception of "Crowns of Glory"



Reception guests and Society members pictured:
Jayne and Carl Williams; guests, Ginger Smyly; Jackie Williams and Shirley Hoskins; Linda Martley-Jordan, Evelyn Lowes and guest; Precious Green and Enrique Hernandez; Courageous and Virginia "Nia" Jourdain, featured artist.

More photos on Praisesinger supplement, next page

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE

CELL

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Please sign me up as a:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| _____ Student | \$15 | _____ Organizations | \$250 |
| _____ Senior | \$25 | _____ Small Business | \$350 |
| _____ Adult | \$50 | _____ Large Business | \$700 |
| _____ Family | \$100 | | |

Contribution: \$ _____

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 checked committee(s):

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

Comment:

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"Crowns of Glory" Opening Reception, guests and members pictured left to right: Al Williams and Mae Threadgill; Fannie Preston, Carl and Jayne Williams; Bill Hoskins; Cora McCoy and Linda Powell; Al Williams and Mae Threadgill; Jackie Sue and David Johnson; Joyce Gordan and Virginia Jourdain; Guests; Bill Hoskins and Virginia Jourdain; Peter Fitzsimmons, Evelyn Lowes, and guest; guest, Bill Hoskins and Mae Threadgill; Rev. Dorsey Blake, Louis Garrett and guest; Howard Weatherby; Ida Hurst, Frances Luster, Winner, MOST BEAUTIFUL HAT, and Bill Hoskins; Afua/Carol Yates.

