



SAN FRANCISCO

African American Historical & Cultural Society



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Eldoris Cameron & Ginger
Smyly, co-editors

Eldoris Cameron & Lance
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Al Williams, President
William Hoskins, Executive
Director

The year 2020 was an unprecedented, tumultuous and awesome year. The human family reels from global pandemic and environmental crises; African Americans reel from violence played upon black bodies and minds. The 2021 Black History Month theme lifted the Black Family as a focal point for all we have experienced, for that we have been, and what we are becoming.

The Society, in its 66th year of observing Black History Month, supported by our partners and our generous sponsors, led four programs. With the valued assistance of the City's own SFGOVTV, the *Kickoff* featured greetings from the Honorable Mayor London Breed, Supervisor Shaman Walton and surprise guest, House Leader, Nancy Pelosi. Pastor Kirk Davis of Kairos, led an invocation, while the Third Baptist Singers, with Preston Gilmore, offered their renditions of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and the Spiritual, "This Little Light of Mine." The keynote speaker, Charles "Chuck" Collins, Esq., SF-YMCA Executive Director, Emeritus, highlighted the role of the family in the lives of African Americans and broader communities. Remarks from Al Williams, President, and Dr. William Hoskins, Executive Director, included thanks to our partners and sponsors, cited our numerous members and friends and made note of future programs. The Black Family was in full effect reflecting how we **represent** ourselves. The *Black History Month Kickoff* is recorded and can be viewed at this link:

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=74&clip_id=37765

(link will be available at sfaahcs.org)

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**2021 ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING, Sunday,
March 21, 2:00 pm via
ZOOM**

Already, didn't we meet in the Fall? We met in the Fall due to the pandemic; Society bylaws call for the annual meeting to be held in March. At this meeting, the President and Society Board will bring you Board nominations, byLaw amendments, a proposed annual budget and program, and other timely items. If you are a **LIFE** member or a member in good standing, you will be able to vote. Meeting information is forthcoming.

PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

This year has gotten off to a rocky start. Despite a fair national election, some forces urged, cajoled and threatened to take it away and remain in power. While some might say it culminated in the take-over of the Capital, we should be on alert that this opposition is still there and is well organized, funded and armed.

Can we take heart from, "*The Hill We Climb*", the words of a little Black girl poet, who proclaimed,

The hill we climb
If only we dare
It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit,
it's the past we step into
and how we repair it

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The **Society's Annual Membership meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 21 at 2 pm.** The Society Board and volunteers have been working from their homes, planning and conducting programs and events and preparing for a brighter future for the Society, our members and our friends. Thanks to those who have kept the Society alive and relevant!

Over the last 6 months we have accomplished the following. Planned and implemented 4 separate Black History Month events in cooperation with our community and civic partners; secured sponsorships and gifts to sustain these efforts; prepared bylaw amendments to ensure consistency with our Articles of Incorporation and with current practices; established an approach to bring a coherent set of programs and events to our members and the public; created an annual report; and communicated regularly with our members and the public through newsletters and updates of the website.

The meeting agenda includes: Bylaw amendment approval, election of Board members, annual report, proposed program and budget for the upcoming period and a family photo album. The Board sincerely hopes you will join us on Sunday, March 21 at 2 pm.

- *Al Williams*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



*Above All Chaos**

Greetings and big congratulations for being the first to get your vaccine!

As this unprecedented year unfolds, we realize how encounters have changed how we socialize, work and worship together. The challenges we face will require those of us who serve our community to collectively engage in meaningful discussions and to build collaborative relationships that result in increased sensitivity and produce programs that support and motivate.

Incorporating the 2021 Black History Month theme, "The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity" is most fitting for the Society, given the critical role that the Black family has played to ensure the survival of its members. The virtual exhibit, "The Black



The Making of a Queen*
Artist: Courageou

Family as Seen through the Eyes of an Artist”, attempts to present the elements of today’s black family in an artistic and meaningful manner. Twelve Bay Area artists will present original works using different media. We hope that this exhibit will not only entertain, but re-enforce the importance of the black family, and showcase the wealth of black artistic talent that we are fortunate to have in the Bay Area.

The virtual exhibit, “The Black Family as seen through the Eyes of an Artist”, is scheduled to open at the end of March and extend to Juneteenth 2021. Information concerning the virtual exhibit and related programs will soon be available at sfaahcs.org.

Please be well and stay safe.

- William Hoskins

STRAIGHT TALK

Dr. Veronica Hunnicutt has just penned, [Straight Talk, How to Survive and Thrive as a Young Man of Color](#). Dr. “H” gives insight on the role of faith in God, trust and respect of elders and responsibility for self. Rev. Dr. Amos Brown, Third Baptist Church, Randy Sekiguchi, Jr., Esq, Executive Director, Urban Ed. Academy, and Valeri Bocage, CEO/President, Powerful Women International Connections, have issued praise for this book. The book can be purchased locally at Books, Inc., Bird & Beckett, on Amazon or other online sources. Thanks, Dr. Hunnicutt, long time member, for adding your wisdom to the mix in a time when we need it.

BLACK FAMILY HISTORY

Bullied in middle school, a black boy warded himself by gathering family history. Ten years later, this young man has reconstructed his family history and conducted extensive genealogical research, including a family tree of over 12,000 persons. Self-taught, he was able to scroll back the hands of time into well before Emancipation and find enslaved ancestors and their enslavers. He explored photographs of great-grandparents as children and an ancestor who accompanied a White family to Egypt as “nanny”, a 100 plus-year-old family Bible and newspaper articles featuring an ancestor poet. His inspiring story brings hope to people descended from enslaved people and to people whose families were consumed by the Holocaust – the possibility of finding crucial links and potential relations. From these people and their stories, he gained a greater sense of self-worth and persistence.

Thanks to Leslie Lombre, member, for bringing this story to the Society. Read the entire article in the [New York Times](#). (This link and all others in this *Praisesinger* will be available at the website, SFAAHCS.org.)

We hope you were able to participate with the Society’s *Family Histories* program. We will make this available in the near future.

2021 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THE BLACK FAMILY: REPRESENTATION, IDENTITY & DIVERSITY

Black History Month, continued from page 1

In our second program, Society members, Dr. India Collins, Louis Garrett, Ginger Smyly, presented their family histories. Ranging from Kentucky to Indiana, Alabama and Louisiana to Texas, and Virginia to Missouri, all landing in California, these stories feature strong men and women who overcame much in order to provide for and nurture their families in the bosom of extended family, church, school and community. These and other stories tell us to whom we belong – our *identity*.

The annual *African American Resources for Genealogy Workshop* brought together people from previous workshops, Society members, and friends to review resources helpful to people descended from enslaved Blacks. Several participants noted breakthroughs which gave us reason to rejoice and to be inspired. Knowing from whom we came is vital for knowing who we are. A second workshop will be offered in April 2021. Watch for further information on our website, sfaahcs.org.

Finally, President Al Williams hosted a *Public Affairs Forum*, reviewing the current state of affairs impacting, impeding, and encouraging African Americans who seek equity, justice and peace in our own country among countrymen and women and our guests. Using the juxtaposition of the 1960s Moynihan Report regarding the deficits of the Black family against the Andre Perry's [Know Your Price](#). Moynihan's Report became the basis of 40 plus years of deficit related programs aimed at African Americans; Perry posits and entirely different model which describes systematic de-valuing of African American assets.

This discussion gave participants a chance to think about what we might do as individuals or collectively as a community to bolster the health and welfare of the extended Black family. Mr. Perry and his latest book are featured in several YouTube videos.

We look forward to the remainder of 2021 – surviving the pandemics we face and growing and nurturing our Black Family in all its *diversity*.

- Ginger Smyly

COVID VACCINES: HOPE IS ON THE WAY!

Recent news from the federal government notes the success of vaccines in preventing COVID or mitigating its deleterious effects. Despite setbacks due to the weather events, immunization is being carried out in all 50 states. Each state and in some instances, counties, have prioritized different groups. People of age 65 and up are a top priority – the Bay Area has made vaccinations available to them through a variety of means. Check your local Department of Public Health for more information. In the meantime, **keep patient, wear your mask, social distance, wash your hands**. When it is your time get **vaccinated!** We still have a way to go, but we will make it!

IN MEMORIA

ROCHELLE METCALFE JOURNALIST



Rochelle Metcalfe honored the Society as guest speaker during Black History Month on February 20, 2015. The theme was “San Francisco, A Century of Black Life, History and Culture: 1915 – 2015.” She was the perfect speaker, because during her tenure at the ***Sun Reporter*** Newspaper, Ms. Metcalfe became acquainted with the “Who’s Who” of the San Francisco African American community.

Ms. Metcalfe was a “Jersey Girl”, born in Asbury Park, New Jersey, residing in San Francisco since the late 1950’s. In 1955, she enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was honorably discharged at Hamilton Air Force Base. Working in communications for the federal government from 1959-1986, her journalist’s in-

The Society has recently lost many members and friends; here are a few.

- Samuel Bennett
- Clifford Moss
- Maxwell Gillette

stincts were nurtured.

The ***Sun Reporter*** was her ‘home’ for 32 years, 1976 – 2008, where she wrote the weekly column, “I HEARD THAT.” You would know what was happening in political or social circles by reading “I HEARD THAT”. One could vicariously experience the excitement at many clubs, ball parks, and social events with local personalities and national celebrities. Life was really ‘jumping’ then with the many Black owned venues. During that heyday of Black life in the Fillmore, Ms. Metcalfe also promoted and booked live music at ***JACK’S*** on Fillmore. Following her long stint at the ***Sun Reporter***, she wrote online from 2008 – 2014 and was featured in “BEYOND CHRON” as a contributor. Ms. Metcalfe penned the “THIRD STREET STROLL” column in the ***Bayview*** Newspaper. The ***Bayview*** reports on news-worthy events in the Bayview-Hunter’s Point district and beyond.

Metcalfe was the proud mother of son, Jay, from her marriage. She loved the color red and the energy it conveyed.

Rochelle Metcalfe passed away on Sunday, January 24, 2021. She lived and breathed writing about the people and events taking place in the San Francisco African American community. She will forever be remembered as a legendary figure in San Francisco history!

- Eldoris Cameron

FAREWELL TRIBUTE
DR. CAESAR
CHURCHWELL, DDS
November 26, 1932 –
February 7, 2021
past Society President

Dr. Caesar Churchwell was a life member of the San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society, and was president from 1993 – 1995. He contributed much to the African American community in San Francisco, inspired many, and will be truly missed.

He was born in Newton, Georgia, and pursued higher education. He served in the United States armed forces and attended Howard University, College of Dentistry, where he graduated with a DDS degree. Dr. Churchwell practiced dentistry in San Francisco from 1969 – 2012. Dr. Churchwell was the husband of Ruth Ethel Churchwell, and they were blessed with four children: Gabrielle Marie, Caesar A., Jr., Eric Thor, and Jonathan Joshua.



His lifetime was devoted to service to the community. His organizational affiliations included: San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce; San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Past President, National Dental Association; American Dental Association; Past President, Northern California Dental Association; San Francisco Dental Association; Black Men Of Action; Sickle Cell Foundation; Bay Area Black United Fund, Allocation Committee; San Francisco Youth Employment Task Force; Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency; Black Extended Family Program Advisory Board; Planned Parenthood, San Mateo County; Airlift for Africa; Rotary Club of San Francisco; Commonwealth Club of San Francisco; Southeast Community College Commissioner & Treasurer; Mayor's Bayview Hunter's Point Economic Planning & Development Task Force; Mayor's Coalition of the Minorities Board/Strategic Planning Committee; San Francisco Housing & Development Corp; past President, Northern San Mateo Black Unity Council; San Mateo Democratic Central Committee; past President, San Francisco Black Leadership Forum; California African American Museum Board; past President, West 'O' Twin Peaks Lions Club; PAL Pee Wee Baseball team coach.

Dr. Caesar Churchwell - May you rest in peace!

- Eldoris Cameron

WELCOME & THANKS

The Society welcomes the following new and returning members and friends:

- **Rev. James Smith**, Music Director and Third Baptist Church
 - **Addie Lewis**, member and volunteer
 - **Thor Koslovsky**, descendent of William Leidesdorff, for his invaluable connections
 - **Linda Stewart**, in honor of her late mother, **Melody Martin**
 - A shout-out to **Noah Griffin**, LIFE member
 - **Maurice Lee**, Society volunteer webmaster
 - **Pierce McDonnell and Max Millard**, website contributors
 - **Sharon Bell and Pamela Stevenson**, The Links
 - **Josefa Perez** and Rainbow Market
 - **Horace Stonework**, returning member
 - **Ida Hurst**, returning member
 - **Jacqueline Cimino and Suleima Mednick-Coles**, USF students
 - **Rev. Kirk Davis**, Kairos, **Charles “Chuck” Collins**, (retired), **Dr. India Collins**, Black History Month programs
 - **Lance Burton**, photos
 - **Courageous**, art work
 - All of our **Black History Month Sponsors**
- And all of **you** for supporting the Society!

Art on pages 2 & 3 by Courageous:



Above All Chaos
charcoal & graphite on Somerset paper
22 x 29 inches
\$2,250

The Making of a Queen
charcoal & graphite on Somerset paper
22 x 29 inches
\$2,250

Contact William Hoskins for more information

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	\$250
_____ Senior	\$25	_____ Small Business	\$350
_____ Adult	\$50	_____ Large Business	\$700
_____ 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

Date rec'd check/cash roster thank you

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Photo Gallery

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Rochelle Metcalfe, Al Williams,
2015, Black History Month

Extras

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Lewis Watts, Metcalfe, Peter
Fitzsimmons

Photo Gallery

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Metcalfe, Kamala Harris, 2006 BHM Kickoff



Noah Griffin, Jr., A. Williams, Ellis Joseph, Eldoris Cameron,
Donnetter Lane, Caesar Churchwell, Toye Moses, Jesse Byrd,
Past Presidents 2014



E. Cameron, Arthur Lathan, A. Williams, Metcalf, William
Hoskins,
Dorothy Lathan



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