

The 26th

Empowerment Breakfast



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A Salute To Black Voices Of Excellence

Hosted By Carole Copeland Thomas
Multicultural Symposium Series Founder
in Partnership with The Colonnade Hotel

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Thursday, March 14, 2019

At The Boston Colonnade Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts



Welcome!

The Empowerment Recognition Breakfast was created by social entrepreneur Carole Copeland Thomas in the year 2000 to pay tribute and recognition to those diverse individuals, businesses and organizations who significantly contribute to the community at large. Today's event represents the 26th Breakfast held in the series. We salute our keynote speaker and those who will be honored in this endeavor.

What Is The Multicultural Symposium Series?

Founded in 2008 by social entrepreneur Carole Copeland Thomas, The Multicultural Symposium Series (MSS) creates new opportunities for academia, business, government, education, students and the community at large to build new strategic alliances that will forge stronger relationships across the global divisions of ethnicity, race, gender, economics, age, religion, sexual orientation, politics, class and ideological differences. MSS is a member-based community. The website is www.mssglobalsummit.com. Membership is opened to anyone in the world!

Lift Every Voice And Sing

Known As The Black National Anthem

Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson (1871 - 1938)

Music by John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening 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 chastening 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 hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou Who hast 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.



DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Marques Benton



Marques Benton is a Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer and OMWI Director at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Benton is responsible for implementing a comprehensive strategy to effectively integrate diversity and inclusion into the Bank's culture, management practices, talent acquisition, and business activities. In this role, he is also responsible for complying with the letter and spirit of Section 342 of the Dodd/Frank Act which mandates the establishment of an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion (OMWI).

In his former role, as an officer in the Public and Community Affairs department, his work with the Mayor's Earned Income Tax Credit program, the Governor's Asset Development Commission and with national foreclosure prevention initiatives has helped thousands of low-to-moderate income (LMI) families build, save and preserve assets and achieve greater financial stability.

Benton is Chair of the Federal Reserve System's OMWI Council and serves on the board of overseers for the Boys and Girls Clubs and the New England Aquarium. He also serves as a Director on the Greenway Business Improvement District (BID) board and the Mayor of Boston's Women's Commission. Benton holds a degree in Economics from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an MBA from the F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College. He remains interested in research, policy, and outreach that measurably improves the financial stability of working LMI households.

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE TO READ MARQUES BENTON'S BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE. HERE'S THE LINK:

<http://bit.ly/2Tr5Xum>

DISTINGUISHED HONOREES



Philip Hillman is currently the owner/operator of PLH Enterprise which does Corporate Coaching. Prior to that, he worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the Chief Administrative Officer of MassHousing, the state's affordable housing bank and he also held the role of Director of the Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents. Phil had a long and varied career at the Polaroid Corporation where he served as Divisional Vice-President of Health, Safety, and Environmental Affairs. His board affiliations include Children Services of Roxbury, Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation and the Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston. Phil and his wife, Barbara, are the proud parents of two adult sons, one adult daughter, and three grandsons. He is a longtime member of St. Paul AME Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has served in various leadership roles at the church.



Colette Phillips is President and CEO of Colette Phillips Communications, Inc. She is a values-based leader, trusted adviser and understands the importance of engaging and influencing key stakeholders. She has extensive experience in developing public relations branding and internal/external communications in areas of strategy, multicultural marketing, and corporate citizenship. In 2008, she launched Boston's premier inclusive business networking forum called Get Konnected!, which brings together professionals, business and civic leaders and entrepreneurs from all cultures and industries. Get Konnected! is the creator of the historic GK100, Boston's first comprehensive list of the 100 Most Influential People of Color. The Boston Globe cites the social impact venture as "changing the conversation on diversity" and Phillips as a "Social Connector." She has been named to Boston Magazine's Power 2018: The 100 Most Influential People in Boston, the Boston Business Journal's 2016/2017 Power 50 and The Boston Globe's A-List. Born in the Caribbean nation of Antigua, Phillips holds a Bachelor and Master of Science from Emerson College. She is the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Law from Mount Ida College.



Bertha Louise Cunningham was born and raised in Panola, Alabama, the oldest daughter of 16 children and raised by her grandmother, Lillie Quarles. After graduating from high school, she attended Sterling College in Sterling, Kansas, majoring in Liberal Arts. In 1969 Bertha moved to Boston and obtained a job as a Trouble & Emergency Supervisor at the Boston Edison Company, currently known as Eversource. She married Joseph Cunningham in 1973 and had two sons, Harshene and Jacobi. After working at Eversource for 21 years, Bertha made a career change and started working for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue as a Customer Service Rep and later a the Payroll Supervisor. In this position, she was required several times to take on some roles as the Payroll manager and enjoyed and excelled in it. In June 2018, Bertha retired after 24 years of service. Now she enjoys spending time with her husband, shopping, and daily visits to the gym. She also enjoys her grandchildren, Tarene and Myles, and hosting Sunday dinners for her family Bertha is a longtime member of Bethel AME Church in Boston. She recently transitioned her leadership role as President of the Greeters to her daughter in law, Tara Cunningham.



J. Keith Motley served as chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Boston between 2007 and 2017. He is currently a faculty member in UMass Boston's College of Management.

The Boston Business Journal also selected Dr. Motley as a recipient of its 2014 Leaders in Diversity Awards. Dr. Motley is also a member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Incorporated and Sigma Pi Phi fraternity Beta Beta Boulé. Dr. Motley holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Northeastern University and a doctor of philosophy from Boston College. He also holds an honorary degree awarded by Northeastern University. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's Upward Bound Program.

He is married to Angela Motley and is the proud father of Keith Allyn, Kayla Iman, and Jordan Kiara.



Nathine Johnson Washington, a native of Gary, Indiana, is the wife of Rev. Ellis I. Washington and the mother of one daughter. Along with her husband, she has served congregations in Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. As a woman of God, Mrs. Washington is committed to her family, church, and community and strives to provide leadership to the various ministries of the church. She is dedicated to kingdom building through encouraging, educating, and uplifting youth and women in their Christian walk.

Mrs. Washington has earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Business. She is also classically trained in music and loves to glorify God through song. She has earned numerous awards and acknowledgments for her volunteer work, to name a few: The Outstanding Young Americans, Junior Achievement, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Domestic Violence Against Women, Pine Street Inn and others.

As in Philippians 1:6, she firmly believes that He that begin a work in you will carry it on to completion until the return of Christ.

Read The Complete Speaker Biographical Profiles At:
<http://bit.ly/2NWQVXd>

Rev. Ellis I. Washington, a native of Detroit, Michigan, is now a servant of Cambridge, Massachusetts at St. Paul A.M.E. Church. He has been noted as a former Gospel Radio announcer and also formerly the host of the "Quiet Storm" on V-103 in Atlanta and "Sunday Morning Praise & Worship" on Magic 98.3 in Columbus, Georgia.

While attending Morehouse College as a Broadcast Communication major, he began his formal career as a pastor in Georgia, also serving congregations in Pennsylvania and currently, St. Paul AME Church, Cambridge, MA. Rev. Washington is a graduate of Columbus State University with a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice, and Turner Seminary at the I.T.C., Atlanta, Georgia, with the M.Div. He is currently pursuing the DMin degree from Payne Seminary, Wilberforce, OH.

He is a member of Alpha Phi Sigma, Who's Who among American Colleges and Universities, and a recipient of the Isaac R. Clark preaching award from the I.T.C. He has completed the Foundations of Christian Leadership program at Duke Divinity School.

A noted community leader, radio personality, freelance commercial voice talent, and a servant of God he and Nathine have one daughter, Keturah NatEII.

PROGRAMME

Welcome	Carole Copeland Thomas, MBA, CDMP, CITM Founder: Multicultural Symposium Series
Black National Anthem (Printed In The Program)	<i>“Lift Every Voice and Sing”</i>
Invocation	Alicine Francois Senior Labor and Employee Relations Consultant Eversource Energy
<i>Enjoy Your Breakfast</i>	
Introduction Of Keynote Speaker	Carole Copeland Thomas
Guest Speaker	Marques Benton Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Empowerment Awards	Carole Copeland Thomas
Close	We Shall Overcome
Benediction	Alicine Francois Eversource Energy

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- Michael Melton
- Lee Francois Videography

DISTINGUISHED HONOREES



Ms. Evelyn D. Lee has prepared children choruses for six performances for President Bill and Hillary Clinton, and President Barack and Michelle Obama at the White House. Additional performances include Yale University, Harvard University, Bill Gates Foundation, Spelman and Morehouse Colleges, Mayor Thomas Menino's and Mayor Marty Walsh's Inaugurals, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, the Boston Celtics, Disney World, Disneyland, and the Beijing Royal School in Beijing, China. As a professional singer, Ms. Lee performed with various artists, including Patti LaBelle and Whoopi Goldberg. She also sang in the hit movie "Blown Away," and was a featured soloist during the Holiday season for Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Orchestra. Celebrating 35 years as an educator, Ms. Lee has served as an Assistant Headmaster and the Head of School at Boston's Renaissance Charter Public School. Presently she is Director of Visual & Performing Arts, The Voices of Renaissance, Young Kings & First Ladies Mentoring Program, Dr. Roger F. Harris Oratorical Society, and Professor Charles J. Ogletree Center for Debate and Discourse. Ms. Lee is also the Director of Music at New Life Temple in Brockton, Massachusetts.

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<http://bit.ly/2NWQVXd>



Nika Elugardo won her election in November 2018 to become the Massachusetts State Representative to the 15th Suffolk/Norfolk District, including the neighborhoods of Brookline, Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, and Roslindale. Nika has over 20 years of experience in community and economic development with public, private, and nonprofit leaders in communities of color, including serving as Jamaica Plain Liaison and Senior Policy Advisor to Massachusetts Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz. Her broad experience positions her to be a strong advocate for our District.

Nika earned her B.S. from MIT in Urban Planning, an MPP from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government with concentrations in political advocacy, leadership, and peace and security, and a J.D. from Boston University Law School with externships in tax law, human rights, and corporate social responsibility.



Ken Reeves is a Cantabrigian who served as a Cambridge City Councilor for 23 years. He served three terms as Mayor of Cambridge. He most recently served as a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Scholar in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT.

As Mayor of Cambridge, Ken served as the first African American Mayor in Massachusetts and as the nation's first openly gay African American Mayor. His terms as Mayor and Vice Mayor are characterized by their energy and innovation. Ken as an elected official founded the W.E.B. DuBois Academy for adolescent males of African Descent, the Cambridge Men of Color Health Task Force, the Cambridge Community Chorus, the Cambridge African American Heritage Trail, and the Cambridge Dance Complex. Ken was educated at Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School. Ken is President of the Cambridge Branch NAACP.



Dr. Ingrid Tucker is the Head of Cambridge Montessori School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She began her tenure as Head of School at CMS on July 1, 2011. Dr. Tucker is a passionate educator who has an extensive history in education. Prior to joining the Cambridge Montessori community, Ingrid served as President of Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center (MCAEC) in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Mother Caroline is a tuition-free middle school for low-income girls in inner-city Boston and their families.

She was the former Middle School Director and Assistant Head of School at Beaver Country Day School in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts for seven years. Prior to joining the Beaver Community, she was Director of Admissions at the Atrium School for two years. She and her husband Phillip are the proud parents of four children, three daughters, and one son. They reside in Milton, Massachusetts.



Rev. Sabrina Brown Gray, a native of Kansas City, Kansas, moved to the Boston area to attend and graduate from Brandeis University and Lesley College. Rev. Sabrina has done international travels and missionary work in Senegal and Tanzania. She is now retired after 33 years of teaching, yet still serves as an adjunct professor at Roxbury Community College, Eastern Nazarene, and Mass Bay Community College.

Rev. Sabrina was ordained an African Methodist Episcopal (AME) elder in 2008. She is a member of the Bethel AME ministerial staff where Ray and Gloria White-Hammond are her pastors. Her ministries have included: Sunday school teacher and superintendent, children's church director and currently Prayer Ministry leader and coordinator of the Planning Ahead ministry. She is the proud wife of Pastor Bob Gray, the mother of 5 children, the stepmom of 3 children and the ecstatic grandmother of 8 almost 9 grandchildren.

Rev. Robert Gray was born in Malden, Mass. and is a 1975 graduate of Northeastern University. He was chosen as a L.U.C.E. Fellow, receiving a three-year fellowship award to Harvard Divinity School in 1997. In January 2008, Rev. Gray earned a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing degree from National University in San Diego, CA.

Rev. Gray is the assistant pastor at Bethel A.M.E. church in Boston, Mass. under chief pastor and shepherd the Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond. After 27 years, he retired in November 2004 from the Massachusetts Probation Service, serving as a probation officer in Dorchester District Court and the probation officer in charge of the Brookline District Court Juvenile Probation Department. He currently holds the position of chaplain for the NBA Boston Celtic's basketball team (2000 until the present), and is the retired assistant chaplain for the Boston Red Sox Major League baseball team (from 1996 until 2007), and retired assistant chaplain for the New England Patriots football team in the National Football League (from 1996 until 2006). Rev. Gray was with the Red Sox, Patriots, and the Celtics each time they won a championship in the 2000 through 2010 decade. This is his 40th season as a professional sports chaplain. Rev. Gray was a widower and married the lovely and talented Rev. Sabrina B. Gray in 2001.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019



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