

The 25th

Empowerment Breakfast



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A Salute To Black Women Of Excellence

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

Twitter Hashtag: #blackbreakfast18
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Thursday, March 15, 2018

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 24th 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.

Lift Every Voice And Sing

Known As The Black National Anthem

Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson (1971 - 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

Ann McNeill



Ann McNeill is Owner and President of one of South Florida's few African American female-owned construction companies, and as a licensed General Contractor, Ann is an industry expert devoted to building and moving the nation.

Before Ann decided to strike out on her own and take advantage of the reconstruction opportunities following the McDuffy riots of 1980 in Miami, Florida, she was employed by Miami Dade Transit. In the late 1970s, Ann was the first African-American female Contract Administrator at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Group, and the only female construction manager of Atlanta-based Thacker Construction's new office in Miami. Not new to the broad thinking of visionary leaders, this industry professional joined Miami-Dade COMTO as one of the original members. Not long after, with the confidence and clarity taught

by experience, Ann launched **MCO Construction & Services, Inc.** Within a short span of time, her construction management contracts began to accrue in excess of \$200 million. Soon Ann and her team of “MCO-ites,” which included five cultures, was participating in the \$700 million Miami International Airport South Terminal Project with a team of eight contractors.

Aside from the construction industry, Mrs. McNeill serves as President and Founder of International Mastermind Association, Inc., empowering countless people to have a better quality of life through Napoleon Hill's Mastermind principles. Mrs. McNeill also founded the National Association of Black Women in Construction, an advocacy organization for black women in construction. Ann is a life coach and public speaker. Through her company, Constructively Speaking, Inc., she has delivered countless speeches on diversity and inclusion. She has impacted the lives of people from all walks of life. Most recently Ann is taking the MasterMind concept around the world, with a special focus on work-life balance.

Ann McNeill received her B.S. degree in Accounting from Florida Memorial University and her M.S. in Finance from Barry University. She is still dating and married to her college boyfriend, Daniel McNeill. Together they have raised three successful entrepreneur-business owners - two daughters and one grandson and one grand-daughter, Malachi, and Rajah.

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE TO READ ANN MCNEILL'S COMPLETE BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE. HERE'S THE LINK:

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

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Kelley Chunn is the principal of Kelley Chunn & Associates (KCA), an award-winning 25-year-old state certified, collaborative consultancy based in Boston. A thought leader, Chunn is also a speaker. A former broadcast journalist, Chunn graduated from New York University and the Simmons College School of Communications Management. Her journey has taken her from Boston to New York, to Nigeria and the White House. There she joined other community and business leaders to advise former President Barack Obama on small business and economic development. Kelley is the first President of the new Roxbury Cultural District.



JoAnn Fagan is a native of Cleveland, Ohio where she graduated from the Cleveland Catholic Schools, attended Case-Western University and later Northeastern University [Boston, MA]. One of her life-long passions was classical ballet and modern dance which led her to join the Ballet de Montreal in Canada. Later, she worked as a computer analysis for the Department of Defense for thirty-seven years and retired in 1994. Joni, as she is affectionately called by her many friends, is a celebrated poet, skilled crafter, and culinary figure. She has devoted her special talents to leadership positions in the Sarah Gorham Women's Missionary Society at Charles Street A.M.E. Church in Roxbury, Massachusetts. She is the mother of Derek and Lethia, grandmother of 11 and great-grandmother of 16. Her motto is "if I can help somebody as I travel along, then my living will not be in vain."



Mary A. Fernandes is co-partner of Vermarje International, Tea and Pastries Business. Vermarje brings the exciting and intriguing world of tea, delicious and healthy pasties to their customers. The essence and spirit of the teatime experience, beauty, comfort, conversation, and joy can be found in Vermarje monthly Afternoon Tea and Tea Salons at Three. Vermarje is a member of the Artisans at Stetson Hall – Co-op/Shop in Randolph, Massachusetts.

Mary served as Assistant General Manager for Supplier Diversity and Development Office at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) / Mass Department of Transportation (MassDOT). Developed and implement a business plan to increase the vendor and contracting pool of small, minority and women-owned business for the MBTA. Mary is the widow of former Randolph Councilman Paul Fernandes and is the proud parent of three children and five grandchildren.



Reverend Barbara A. Groover, a native of Sparta, Georgia, grew up being raised by her devoutly religious grandmother. At age twelve, she moved to Brooklyn with her parents and two sisters. As a teenager, she joined and became an active member of People's Institutional A.M.E. Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. Her professional career involves working in a few women apparel companies in New York Fashion Industry. Barbara is currently the Hingham Plaza Head of Store, for GAP, Inc. a multinational clothing store. Reverend Barbara received her undergraduate degree (majoring in Business) at Baruch College in New York. She is currently completing her Master of Divinity at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, MA. Barbara is the First Lady at Charles Street AME Church in Boston. She and her husband Pastor Gregory Groover, Sr. have two young adult children, Gerami (husband Anyelo) and Greg, Jr., who are both graduate-degree educated and professional musicians.



Gail Jackson-Blount is Founder of Jackson Communications (GJC), a consultancy providing marketing services and strategies to a broad range of industries ranging from not-for-profits, health care, education and the corporate sector.

Her career in executive communications includes serving as Chief Outreach Strategist for a U.S. Senate Campaign, Senior Director at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, Executive Director for Outreach and Political Affairs - the 2004 Democratic National Convention. She began her career in radio broadcasting as a public affairs talk show host, in government and for major retailers in Massachusetts. Today, she is a frequent speaker about women in political leadership and moderates business panels. Currently serving as President of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, Jackson resides in Quincy, MA with her husband, Ray.



Elizabeth "Liz" Miranda is a Cape Verdean - American, lifelong Roxbury resident, Wellesley College alumna and a proud graduate of the John D.O'bryant School of Math and Science. Liz is a true Social Entrepreneur and Philanthropist; using innovative business and community organizing techniques to activate young people and produce large-scale community events. She has remained focused on creating a better Boston for young people and communities of color by using her voice and skills since the age of 13. Liz is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Boston Alumnae Chapter. She began Amplify Boston in 2017 to actively promote opportunities community programs, initiatives and events to build a stronger Boston. Finally claiming her title as one of Boston's top activists.

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

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> Led By Dr. Krystal Banfield
Musical Selection	Dr. Krystal Prime Banfield Assoc. V.P Education Outreach and Social Entrepreneurship Berklee College of Music
Invocation	Mrs. Nancy Dandridge The Historic Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church

Enjoy Your Breakfast

Introduction Of Keynote Speaker	Carole Copeland Thomas & Shirley T. Burke
Guest Speaker	Mrs. Ann McNeill President and CEO. MCO Construction and Services Miami, Florida
Empowerment Awards	Carole Copeland Thomas
Close	We Shall Overcome
Benediction	Mrs. Nancy Dandridge The Historic Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church

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- Rudy Dottin, Pro Audio Mix

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"Vision without action and accountability is not impressive." – Brenda Butler Hamlett
With over 20 years in the nonprofit sector, **Kalya Hamlett Murray** continues the heritage of her parents, Fred and Brenda Hamlett: educating, empowering and advocating, sustaining the African-American legacy as a strategic nurturer.

Currently, Kalya is the Executive Director of the Bethel Institute for Social Justice – leading measurable transformation in the lives of high-risk youth and their families. Kalya is a graduate of Spelman and Boston Colleges, with a graduate certification from Hood College. A member of Bethel AME Church and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Kalya is most excited about her husband and two energetic boys.



JACQUI PARKER is a Boston based, playwright, actor, and director. She has won numerous awards for her work as an artist including; the Elliot Norton Award, Boston Theatre Hero Award, eight Independent Reviewers of New England Awards (IRNE) and the DRYLONGSO Award, for her struggle against racism. She is named one of Boston's most influential people, in Don West's book *Portraits of Purpose*. Parker was the visiting playwright at Hibernian Hall, where she wrote and directed five productions; One of those plays, *A Crack in the Blue Wall*, was nominated as Best New Play, by the Independent Reviewers of New England. Parker is presently a part of the I Dream Team at Emerson College. She will be directing at Gloucester Stage this summer.



Arleigh Prelow is an independent producer, director, writer and researcher of documentary film and video and founder of InSpirit Communications and Film. Arleigh earned a degree in Communications and Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2013 she received a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School, affirming her ministry to provide hope and inspiration through the arts. She won an Emmy Award for her documentary *Sweet Auburn*. Arleigh is currently completing *The Psalm of Howard Thurman*, a feature-length documentary on the spiritual giant, Howard Thurman. Arleigh appears in *Who's Who Among Black Americans* and *Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals*. She is the mother of two adult daughters and a recent grandmother.



With more than 25 years experience as a Human Resources Executive, **Dr. Barbara Addison Reid** spent most of her professional career working at Harvard, Tufts, Bentley, and Lesley Universities. She also spent nine years working in corporate America at Automatic Data Processing (ADP) as the Human Resources Executive for the New England Region. Dr. Addison Reid also managed twenty organizational development projects to redefine roles and responsibilities of individuals, departments, and division. As a faculty member, Dr. Addison Reid taught undergraduate and graduate level courses at Northeastern and Bentley Universities for 14 and 15 years respectively. She is a double Husky with a Bachelor and Master degrees from Northeastern University in Boston Massachusetts and earned a doctorate at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1992.



Jeanne Richardson is CEO and Travel Consultant at Blue Dynasty Entertainment and Travel. Her company provides personalized travel planning for businesses and social groups as well as destination weddings, family events, and other celebrations. Jeanne's experience includes leadership positions in communications, public relations, education and social work. She earned a master's degree in Counseling from Antioch University and a Certification in Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) from Harvard University Graduate School of Education. She is a Certified International Tour Director (CITD) and an Accredited Cruise Counsellor (ACC) with the Cruise Lines International Association. With over 30 years of experience, Jeanne is using her skills to heighten traveler awareness of the needs and social conditions in countries visited.



Sandra Robinson is a Leader and Marketing Guru in the field of Radio Communications, more specifically BLACK RADIO. Ms. Robinson has worked in Radio Management for more than 30 years. At W-I-L-D Radio, which was Boston's only Black-owned and operated radio station for more than 40 years, "Sandi" was one of the leading sales professionals at the station. Sandi is a Radio Professional for La MEGA Radio, a Latino Radio Station in the Boston Market. Sandi continues to market small and community businesses including 87.7 FM.com and other Radio Enterprises. Sandi is an alumna of Howard University in Washington D.C. and former member of Women in Media, The Boston Club and The Coalition of 100 Black Women to name a few. She enjoys decorating, playing Bid Whist, and listening to Jazz! She is the mother of two adult children and grandmother to two grandsons. Sandi lives in Lower Mills Dorchester.

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At:
<http://bit.ly/2FBdcFg>**

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018



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