

INbrooklyn



INBrooklyn photo by Andy Katz

BE
Brooklyn Eagle Group

Black History Month Champions Honored by EBrooklyn Media and WellCare

Unique networking event focuses on remembering the past, celebrating the present, embracing the future

BY ANDY KATZ

ebrooklyn media, publisher of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Brooklyn Heights Press, Brooklyn Spectator and Home Reporter among other community-based newspapers, joined WellCare to host an evening honoring African-American leaders in Brooklyn's business, healthcare, political and law enforcement community.

Michael Nussbaum, co-publisher of the Queens Daily Eagle, a sister newspaper and co-host with EBrooklyn Media, welcomed all, and noted "Today we honor leaders whose influence extends well beyond the borders of Brooklyn itself."

Host Dozier Hasty, publisher of EBrooklyn Media, said "As a white guy born in Georgia, who chose Brooklyn as home almost half a century ago, I feel inspired by the indomitable spirit represented here today. In my work I see reasons why Black History should be celebrated every day, not just one month a year."

"Particularly at this time," added Hasty, "our entire country needs the lessons of graceful forbearance, leadership and dignity that are seen in those we honor tonight. And I believe Brooklyn is the place where this happens every day."

"These are leaders," said Queens Daily Eagle Publisher Mike Nussbaum, "that go well beyond the borders of Brooklyn itself."

"Wonderful things are happening in this borough," said ebrooklyn media Publisher J. Dozier Hasty. "Tonight you're going to hear from some of the real heroes of Brooklyn life."

The evening's principal co-sponsor, WellCare, provides government-sponsored managed care services. "WellCare speaks for people who lack resources, people of color, people for which English is a second language," said WellCare President, John Burke said. "We help people navigate the jungle of healthcare bureaucracy and get the best possible

outcome by remaining in compliance with their medical regimen."

The keynote speaker for the evening was Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives, J. Phillip Thompson.

"African-Americans," said Thompson, in keeping with the theme of remembering the past, "more than any other group, have maintained and expanded the principles of the American Revolution of the 1770s and 80s. Universal human rights called into question the theological notion that white people and the church possessed some special responsibility to rule those parts of the world where people were deemed inherently inferior. These gave rise to the French Revolution of 1989, the Haitian Revolution of 1801 and the U.S. Civil War of 1861.

"One of the great errors in the teaching of American history has been to tell people that these ideas, these ethos, were gradually and peacefully incorporated into the American way of life," he went on. "This is completely untrue. Every step in the direction of these ideals has taken immense struggle and immense sacrifice.

"Let me say this," he said. "We're going to win this fight."

The evening's first honoree was First Deputy Commissioner of the NYPD Ben Tucker. In addition to being NYPD's second-in-command, Tucker is also a tenured professor at Pace University.

"I've had people along the way who have changed my life," Tucker said, recalling a high school guidance counselor who arranged a transfer for him away from a school with a substantial gang presence to one in Flatbush. "It was the best thing that ever happened to me," he said. "It changed my life completely."

The next honoree was Bill Thompson, Jr. onetime New York City comptroller and current chair of the board of trustees of the City University of New York. "I look at Black History Month," said Thompson, "as

each and every day when you look at contributions African-Americans and people of color have made." Thompson recalled his father, a veteran of WWII, serving in a segregated army. He was not permitted to eat in the same mess hall as white GIs, while German POWs were.

"We've come a long way," he said, "But we still have a long way to go. Look at what's happening in Washington, D.C. This is not just a blip. Rights are being eroded. We cannot sit back and assume things will take care of themselves. They will not."

Arlene Meyers, director of nursing for NYC Health+ Hospitals, recalled her grandmother who lived to be 103, and a great-grandmother who lived to 107. "They were great historians," Meyers said. "And all of my life has been to educate."

Maurice Coleman, senior vice president of community development banking at Bank of America Merrill Lynch said, "No one makes it alone. Not only did I get a degree from Columbia, Brooklyn gave me my PhD. It gave me the commitment to work hard. Over my career, I've done many interesting things, but I couldn't have done them without my family, without my friends."

Dr. Jocelyn Rainey is chief administrative officer of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. "I want to thank all of my fellow honorees," said Rainey, "especially Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, whose support has enabled the Navy Yard to grow and create jobs. This award is especially gratifying for me. I'm going to charge each and every one of you to be aware that we're creating history for our young people to follow."

Deidre Sully, director, Public Health Solutions, pioneered the implementation of smoke-free zones from NYCHA to city campuses to office buildings.

"Be purposeful in your actions," Sully said. "That is

Continued on next page



Keynote Speaker and Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives, J. Phillip Thompson



Brooklyn Daily Eagle Publisher Dozier Hasty right with Queens Daily Eagle Publisher and event's MC Michael Nussbaum



Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams



L-R Arlene C. Meyers, Diedre Sully, Borough President Eric Adams, Dr. Jocelynne Rainey, Maurice Coleman and John Burke



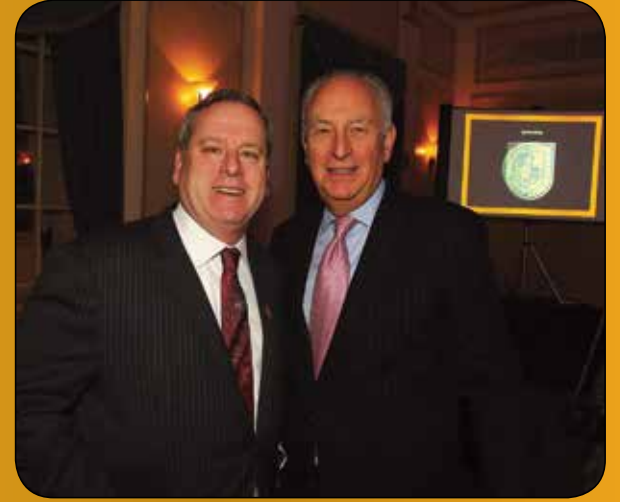
WELLCARE TEAM with Wellcare President John Burke third from right and Brough President Eric Adams front row.

Continued from previous page

what I've always tried to do. I would not be here were it not for people in the background—my team, the people I work with every day.” Last, but certainly not least, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams accepted his award. “You do an amazing job,” Adams told Nussbaum. “Let me say this, no matter how adept the *eagle* is, it cannot fly with one wing. We need both wings. And the honorees tonight provide the other wings that permit us to soar as high as we do.” Speaking of the “hyphen” used to designate African-Americans or Jewish-Americans, or Italian-Americans, Adams said, “You remove that hyphen, you remove us as well. Someone needs to give that memo to Donald Trump.”



L-R Michael Nussbaum, First Deputy Police Commissioner of NYC, Benjamin B. Tucker and John Burke



John Burke and Michael Nussbaum



CONEY ISLAND HOSPITAL



L-R Joiel Ray-Alexander, Senior Director, Brand Marketing, WellCare of New York, Shanie Persaud, Director of Events for EBrooklyn Media LLC and Eunice Rivers of WellCare



Shanie Persaud, (center) with Agewell NY team



L-R William Thompson, Maurice Coleman, John Burk and Richard Petrucci



Honoree, Maurice Coleman



Honoree, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams



Honoree, Arelene C. Meyers



Honoree, Dr. Jocelynn Rainey



Honoree, William Tompson Jr.



— Proud Sponsors of —

Black History Month Champions Awards Reception & Networking Event

February 26, 2019



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Black History Month Champions Awards

Remembering the Past. Celebrating the Present. Embracing the Future.

Presented by: **ebrooklyn media**

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Coney Island

Saluting Our *Champions*

By Shanie Persaud-Adeen

The story of America's history cannot be told without the history of African Americans and their contributions to the overall development of this nation. And there have been many. Whether it was fighting for justice and civil liberties, equal pay, women's rights, voting rights, economic and education empowerment, science and technology equality, African Americans have been front and center to these important causes and more. While we cannot tell the story without the great names such as Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks or Malcom X, whom we have no more and whose contributions will continue to educate and inspire us beyond our lifetimes, we can tell the stories and recognize those who are here with us today. Our newspapers report on everyone and on major news stories throughout the year. Yes, we provide more coverage on African Americans during this period. But we believe that it is important to go beyond just reporting. We believe that we have the responsibility to recognize those in our communities who are leading the way, blazing the trail, who are lifting others up every day—those who are giving of their personal time to leave the world a little better than they found it.

And so, we are pleased to join alongside our presenting sponsor, WellCare, to share with our readers eight (8) incredible individuals whom we will salute on February 26, in recognition of Black History Month 2019, for their personal achievements and contributions to this city and nation. These recipients will be presented with the 2019 Black History Month Champion Awards at the Dyker Beach Golf Course in Brooklyn. The theme of this event is, "Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present, Embracing the Future."

As you leaf through these pages, be inspired by the incredible stories, words of wisdom and lessons learned from those honorees right here in our city. Share it with your family, your friends, educate yourself about their journeys, about their struggles, celebrate their contributions to our city. And join us on February 26.

For further inspiration, peruse the facts about other African Americans who have added to our nation, making this a better place to live, work and enjoy our freedom. These champions we also salute!



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The Story Behind Black History Month

By Raanan Geberer

Many people remain unaware of Black History Month's origins. The observance was created in 1926 as "Negro History Month" by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, one of the founders of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History) and of *The Journal of Negro History*.

Woodson, who had a Ph.D. from Harvard, was concerned that at the time, the only representations of African-Americans in most school history books portrayed them only as menial or field workers. He chose the second week of February because it contained the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and 19th century anti-slavery advocate Frederick Douglass.

Early New York celebrations took place at the Schomburg Center library branch in Harlem, which was and still is dedicated to black history and culture. In the late 1940s and '50s, the celebration, originally meant to teach about black history in the schools, grew to include concerts, church services, lectures, dances and other events. The celebration spread to other venues. Frequently, well-known African-Americans of distinction were honored.

Brooklyn celebrations of what was then Negro History Week began fairly early on and were well-received by the community. For example, in the early 1950s, musician and composer W.C. Handy, "the father of the blues," performed and spoke at a Brooklyn junior high school, according to the website of Woodlawn Cemetery, where Handy is buried. He told the students, "Life is something like this trumpet. If you don't put anything in it, you don't get anything out."

Also in the early 1950s, P.S. 83 in Brooklyn had an event that taught about Virgin Islands Gov. William Hastie, U.N. negotiator Ralph Bunche and contralto singer Marian Anderson. Sociology/anthropology professor and scholar Melissa F. Weiner covers this event in her 2010 book, "Power, Protest and the Public Schools." New York Vocational High School in East New York hosted Brooklyn Dodgers baseball stars Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella. The famous Church of the Holy Trinity in Brooklyn Heights, now St. Ann and the Holy Trinity Church, also celebrated the week during the 1950s.

During the 1960s, Negro History Week became Black History Week. Then, in 1969, black educators and students at Kent State University in Ohio proposed the first month-long celebration of black history. The first Black History Month series of events was organized at Kent State one year later.

Finally, in 1976, President Gerald Ford, in connection with the U.S. bicentennial celebration, recognized February as Black History Month.

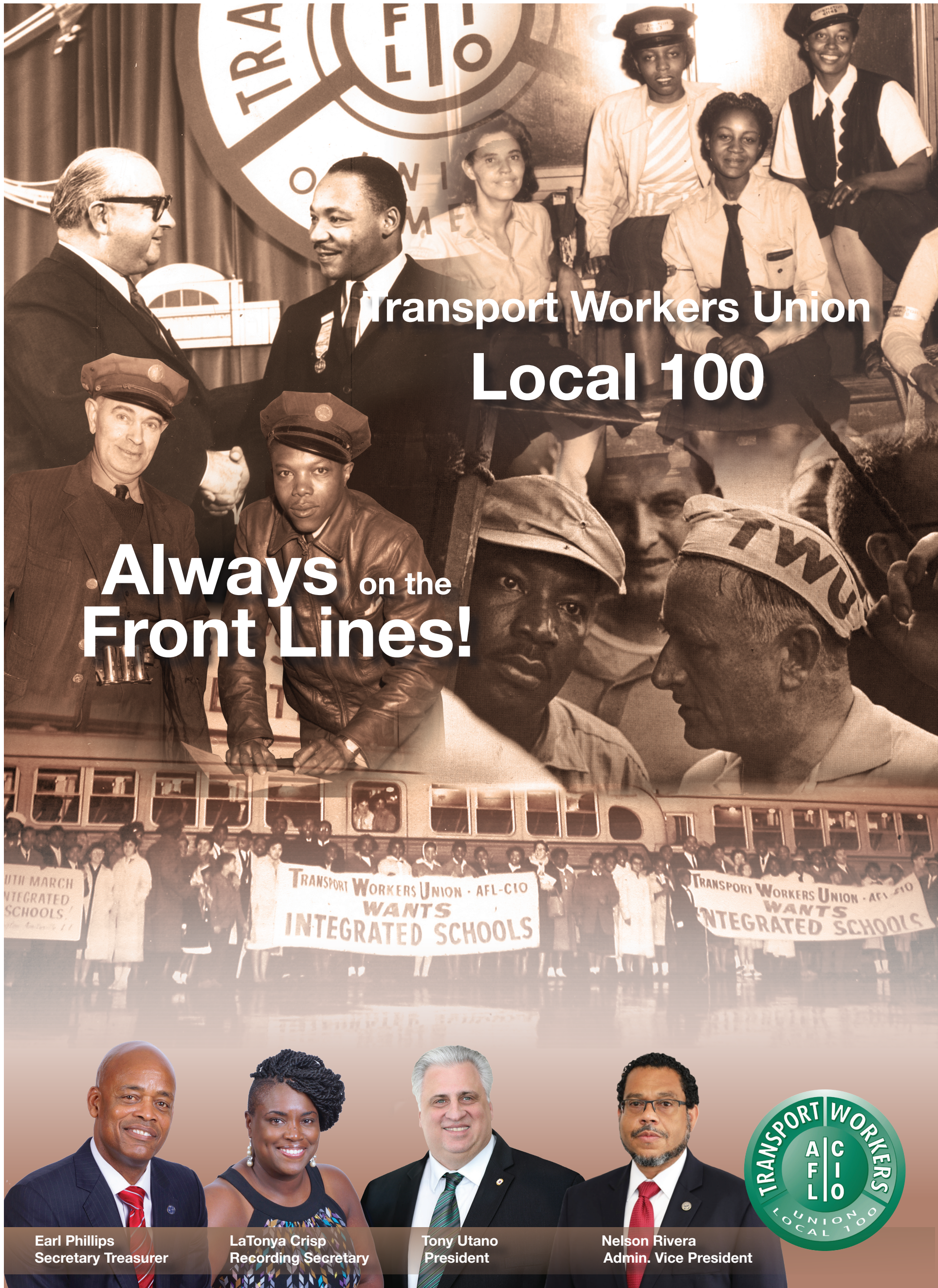
Today, every important institution in the borough celebrates Black History Month, including the Brooklyn Historical Society, the Brooklyn Borough President's Office, Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Brooklyn Public Library, the Brooklyn Museum, the Green-Wood Cemetery, various colleges and universities, and the religious institutions in which the foundations of liberty and justice are entrenched through sacred scriptures.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson



W.C. Handy



Transport Workers Union Local 100

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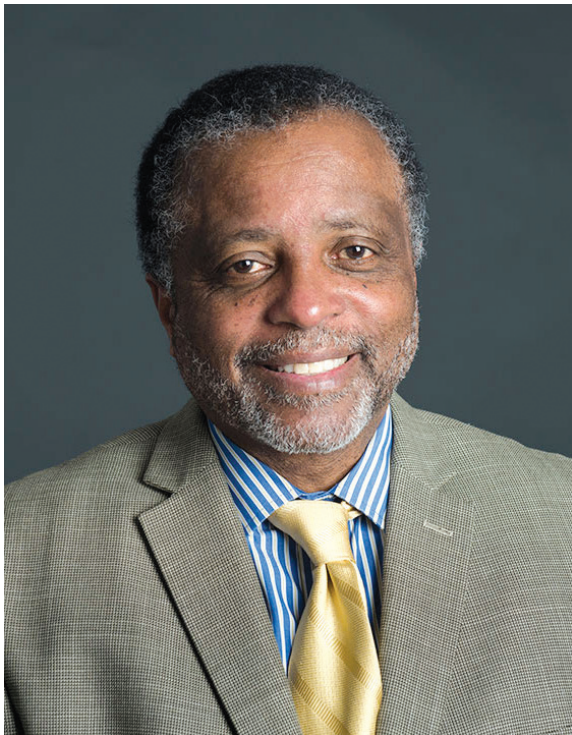
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Phillip Thompson

Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives

Appointed in February 2018, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives Philip Thompson is responsible for spearheading a diverse collection of priority initiatives.

He oversees New York City's signature Pre-K for All program, which provides free, high-quality

pre-kindergarten to 70,000 four-year-olds each year. He also oversees the continued expansion of the nation's first-ever 3-K for All, and will ensure the continued success of the Community Schools and Young Men's Initiatives and ThriveNYC, the nation's most comprehensive approach to mental health.

Additionally, the Deputy Mayor has been charged with expanding the city's investment in minority- and women-owned businesses, leading DemocracyNYC, the Mayor's comprehensive strategy to encourage greater voter participation and improve the way the city carries out elections.

Deputy Mayor Thompson's agency portfolio includes the Department of Youth and Community Development; the Department of Small Business Services; the Commission on Human Rights; the Department of Veterans' Services; the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs; the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities; the NYC Public Engagement Unit; and the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development.

Prior to joining the de Blasio administration, the Deputy Mayor was an Associate Professor of Urban Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His courses – which married his real-world experience and cutting-edge research – covered a wide range of subject matter, including housing and economic development, urban politics, post-disaster planning, social movements, and race and ethnicity in American Politics, among many other areas. Deputy Mayor Thompson is the author of "Double Trouble: Black Mayors, Black Communities and the Struggle for Deep Democracy," published in 2006 by Oxford University Press. He has also written and worked

expansively on community health planning, the future of labor unions, race and community development, social capital in public housing, and the politics of black economic advancement.

Deputy Mayor Thompson has an extensive background in New York City Government. In 2003 and 2010 he served as an expert on the NYC Charter Revision Commission, and before that served in the Dinkins Administration as the Deputy General Manager for Operations and Development, where his portfolio included the New York City Housing Authority. Before that he had roles as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing Coordination as well as the Mayor's Liaison to the NYC Districting Commission. He also served previously in the Manhattan Borough President's Office as an advisor and assistant to the chief of staff.

The Deputy Mayor's policy experience stretches beyond local and regional government – he has worked on a number of global projects to promote peace, reduce inequality, and build greater environmental sustainability. In support of the Colombian peace process, he worked closely with Colombian Ministry of Environment and local stakeholders to create sustainable environmental and community development programs. In 2010, he also worked with the Haitian government on post-earthquake housing planning and design. Before that he worked with the City of New Orleans on their post-disaster training and the City of Cleveland on innovative economic development solutions.

Deputy Mayor Thompson received a B.A. in Sociology from Harvard University in 1977, a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Hunter College in 1986, and a Ph.D. from the City University of New York Graduate Center in 1990.



is pleased to salute the accomplishments of the
2019 Black History Month Champions Awards Recipients.

Thank you for your service, for your inspiration
and for your contributions to making our city a better place.

**With Sincere Appreciation from your friends at the
Brooklyn Community Improvement Association**

720 57th Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11220

LOUIE LIU | Vice President, BCIA
917-681-8999



Treating Mental Illness in the United States: Go Beyond Healthcare

Nearly one in five adults in the United States lives with mental illness, according to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). That's over 43 million Americans—more than the populations of New York and Florida combined.

While the larger U.S. population is at risk for developing a mental illness in their lifetime, low-income Americans – including those on Medicaid – can be particularly vulnerable. According to a study from the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), low levels of household income were associated with several lifetime mental disorders and suicide attempts. Further, the study found a reduction in household income was associated with an increased risk for incident mental disorders.

Additionally, African Americans and Hispanic Americans are less likely to receive diagnosis for their behavioral health issues, and they have less access to mental health services. Even when programs are in place, these groups may not take advantage of them due to social and cultural stigmas about mental illness.

According to WellCare of New York, a provider of Medicare and Medicaid in throughout the state, there are three critical factors

to consider for improving overall mental health and well-being for all Americans:

Take on Stigma. The nation continues to struggle with the stigma of mental health. It is only through open dialogue, empathy and education that we will begin to break down stigma, and to treat mental health as we would any other health condition.

Address Access to Mental Healthcare and Substance Abuse Treatment. According to the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI), nearly 60 percent of adults with a mental illness didn't receive mental health services in the previous year. African Americans and Hispanic Americans each use mental health services at about one-half the rate of whites. And, when it comes to substance abuse, the rates are even higher, with nearly 88 percent of people age 12 and older identifying as needing treatment, but not receiving it.

Go Beyond Healthcare. It's difficult to prioritize mental health treatment when you and your family don't have a place to live or lack transportation to and from work, school or medical appointments. In fact, a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) survey revealed nearly seven percent of people did not receive sub-

stance abuse treatment because they didn't have transportation. By building connections between healthcare and social services, those barriers can be addressed. There are a number of social support services available in local communities to help with social and economic barriers to care.

The care teams at WellCare work one-on-one with members not only to coordinate their medical care, but to also help provide social support services, like assistance finding transportation to medical appointments, housing assistance and discharge planning, among others. This holistic approach is showing early signs of success, with an overall increase in the number of Medicaid members receiving residential treatment to address substance abuse. There have also been increases in New Jersey, for example, in psychological services and reductions in inpatient admissions costs.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with housing, transportation, food or other social supports, WellCare may be able to help through its Community Connections Help Line, which connects callers with local support resources. Please call 866-775-2192 for help, where someone is available Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time).



Congratulations
Arlene Meyers, RN, MSHA

Director of Medical Nursing

2019 Honoree
Black History Month Champions





Eric Adams Brooklyn Borough President

Police officer, state senator, and since 2013 Brooklyn Borough President, Eric Adams has spent his life serving the people of Brooklyn. Born in Brownsville, Adams has always stayed near his roots, keeping two residences today in Bedford-Stuyvesant and in Prospect Park.

During his career with both the NYPD and the NY Transit Authority, Adams was noted for his ability to assess situations quickly and determine a course of action. His responsibility to the people didn't end with his shift; and he often went above and beyond what was required of him. In 1995 he co-founded 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement, which

not only improved relations between the police department and the community, but helped raise funds for worthwhile causes throughout the city.

Adams is first and foremost an advocate in both his professional and personal life. During his tenure in the New York State Senate, representing the 20th Senate District (2006 -2013), he legislated for a variety of issues focusing on the rights of his constituents. Among these were the right to privacy, and the rights of women, students, workers and animals. Among these accomplishments: He defended a woman's right to choose and marriage equality.

Adams fought just as valiantly against the things he saw as wrong, and introduced legislation to reform campaign financing and restrict outsourcing. He spoke to the inequities in sentencing in various crimes. He also addressed the NYPD's "stop and frisk" policy, which he opposed for its emphasis on racial profiling and gender discrimination. He worked diligently for gun control.

Adams earned a B.A. from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Marist College. He understands the value of both formal and informal education; and he shares his thoughts on what he believes is needed for today's youth, especially for those of color. During this Black History Month, Adams has this message to share and underscore. He has supported both State Senator Jesse Hamilton and Assembly member Diana Richardson in asking that Black History be taught in schools, K-12.

"Young people need to know that they are the grandchildren of the civil rights movement, and they are the inheritors of that legacy of activism. Don't believe the lie that the winds of change were blown away by adults. Young people have always blown

the direction of where our country and our globe are going to travel. There is real power in recognizing one's own potential to affect positive change."

That power to make positive changes has been the impetus for Adams all along his life's path. He entered into a partnership with Medgar Evers College to create the Brooklyn Pipeline, a program that facilitates developmental learning and enrichment opportunities to public school students. The Brooklyn Pipeline also helps parents learn effective ways to support their children's education; and gives teachers the opportunity to enjoy professional development, as do other school leaders.

Adams has asked the City University of New York (CUNY) to look into reinstating the free tuition for community colleges, and initiated Code Brooklyn, to teach coding and computer science at Brooklyn's public schools. He wrote an editorial in the New York Daily News asking the Department of Education to test all pre-kindergarten students for entrance into gifted and talented programs, including those who have previously been excluded, the Latino and African American children.

With a keen eye toward improving health care in Brooklyn and elsewhere, Adams has allocated funds to improve hospitals across the borough; he has worked toward keeping hospitals open, and has aided in federal and state government about resources for health and community needs. Partnering with Delta Children, he has provided cribs and play-yards for those in need.

The list of changes Adams has brought about for the betterment of Brooklyn, and the list of issues which he has championed and advocated are impressive. Brooklyn is better by far for having Adams as one of its own.

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The Brooklyn Eagle's Black History Month Champions Awards

to Congratulate Our Illustrious Colleague

Gregory Calliste

Chief Executive Officer, NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull

*In recognition of his outstanding contributions to
healthcare in our community*

Our best wishes also to all honorees for their achievements and service



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Benjamin Tucker First Deputy New York City Police Commissioner

Long before he was First Deputy New York City Police Commissioner Benjamin Tucker was on a path to performing outstanding service to his community. As a youth growing up in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Tucker was surrounded by a loving, extended family. He was raised by a single mother, a woman he describes as straightforward, honest and strong. When he was 9 or 10, his mother bought a house—a multiple family dwelling that grandparents, three sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles all shared. This led to a rich informal schooling: discussions abounded about life, faith, politics, civil rights and education. Tucker listened

and learned from those conversations. His family was supportive of him and of each other, providing him an excellent lesson in the value of family, loyalty and security. Tucker learned his basic values and ideals both from his family and from other adults—teachers he admired and people of faith.

Tucker didn't wait long after high school to jump right into life. At 18 he made two important decisions that would mold his life. He got married, and he found his vocation, albeit by accident. A friend dropped by his house one day, intent on taking the police entrance exam; and he talked Tucker into joining him. Tucker did, and he became a police trainee. The year was 1969. In 1972 he became a member of the NYPD, remaining with the department for 22 years. Performing various duties, he served as a Police Academy instructor and as a legal advisor in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Legal Matters. He was assistant director of the Civilian Review Board. Tucker held appointments at the request of several mayors, including Edward Koch, Michael Bloomberg and Bill de Blasio.

After leaving the NYPD during the Koch administration, Tucker served as deputy assistant for Law Enforcement Services in Mayor Bloomberg's Office of Operations, first deputy commissioner and executive director on the Commission on Human Rights, and chief operations officer in the Office of the Manhattan Borough President. He served the city again when Bloomberg appointed him chief executive officer for school safety and planning for the Department of Education.

President Bill Clinton in 1995 named Tucker as Deputy Director for Operations, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at the Department Service at the U.S. Department of Justice in 1995. President Barack Obama in 2009 nominated Tucker to serve the

state and local affairs division within the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Other posts include work with the Substance Abuse Strategy Initiative at New York University, as well as the Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Both programs were designed to evaluate the effectiveness of post-incarceration services for substance abusing ex-offenders and service for pre-adolescents at risk for becoming substance abusers.

NYPD Commissioner William B. Bratton in 2014 appointed Tucker to the executive staff. Promoted to first deputy commissioner, Tucker was charged with designing and implementing policy, programs and training, and with strengthening community relations and accelerating department performance. Upon appointing Tucker, Bratton said, "He has an intimate understanding of crime, drug abuse, youth and the law."

Formal training, including a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal Justice from John Jay University and a juris doctor degree from Fordham University School of Law, and expertise and years of experience have molded Tucker into the person he is. Just as important in molding his character was his early informal education through family and positive role models. These have shaped him into a leader who is understanding, knows human nature, and can be compassionate in all situations.

Early lessons from his mother are still fresh in his mind. "Study hard, be respectful, use good judgement and choose your friends wisely," he cautions. All that good wisdom Tucker has heeded himself, leading to a life of service and success—these can go hand in hand.



**NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull
Is proud to join the Brooklyn
Daily Eagle and EBrooklyn Media
in honoring and congratulating our
distinguished honoree**

Gregory Calliste

Chief Executive Officer

**As a recipient of the
2019 Black History Month
Champion Award**

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It's part of who we are

At Northwell Health, we're proud to be named one of Fortune's 100 most diverse companies in the U.S.— especially as we celebrate culture, diversity and achievement during Black History Month.

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The City University of New York is the nation's leading urban public university. Founded in 1847, CUNY counts 13 Nobel Prize and 24 MacArthur ("Genius") grant winners among its alumni. CUNY students, alumni and faculty have garnered scores of other prestigious honors over the years in recognition of historic contributions to the advancement of the sciences, business, the arts and myriad other fields.

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WILLIAM C. THOMPSON JR., CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ON RECEIVING A
BLACK HISTORY MONTH CHAMPION AWARD

FEBRUARY 26, 2019



CUNY.EDU



William C. Thompson, Jr. Chairperson CUNY Board of Trustees

“All people, especially the young, must be involved. Don’t let other people shape your world or your neighborhood.” These words are from Bill Thompson; they come from the heart and he has lived by them throughout his life. He has always been involved, in government and education. He has shaped his own life, and that of many others.

Thompson’s willingness to serve his community may have been passed down to him from his mother, Elaine Thompson, a public school teacher; and his father, the late William C. Thompson. The elder William C. Thompson was a Brooklyn Democratic Party Leader, City Councilman, Senator and Judge in the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division.

His son, William C. Thompson, Jr., a Black History Month Champions Honoree, is the Chairperson of the Board of the City University of New York, having been appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo on June 15, 2016. Replacing Peter Pantaleo, his term runs until 2022. He previously served Cuomo when he was named to Chair the Minority and Women Owned Business (MWBE) Task Force in 2011. Since 2015 he has served as the Chairman of the New York State Housing Finance Agency and Chairman of New York Mortgage Agency. His ties have always been with the city he loves; born in Brooklyn, dwelling now in Harlem, he has spent most of his life serving in one capacity or another.

Thompson served as Deputy Brooklyn Borough President from 1983 to 1992—the youngest person to serve in that office—during the administration of Borough President Howard Golden. A five-term President of the New York City Board of Education from 1996 until 2001, he served on that Board for two years before taking the presidency. Under his guidance, working with CUNY officials, the University’s College Now program was established. Through this program, public high school students may take courses at the City University. Begun in 1984 with 49 students, the program today provides this opportunity to 20,000 students from 400 high schools.

In his role as City Comptroller, from 2002-2009, Thompson oversaw 720 employees; and he managed a \$66 million annual budget and a multibillion dollar pension fund. In 2003, Thompson led in the effort to establish bank branches in underserved neighborhoods, depositing \$200 million in city funds to make it happen. While he was Comptroller, firms managed by women and minority owners increased to more than \$6 million.

Governor Paterson, in Feb. 2010, appointed Thompson Chairman of the Board of the Hugh L. Carey Battery Park Authority, he served until 2012.

Joining the Siebert Brandford Shank & Company in April of 2010, he became a partner in November of 2015. The firm is a full service investment entity, and has managed over \$1 trillion of municipal bonds in more than 4000 transactions. These provide funding for education, health services, transportation, housing, utilities, capital facilities, and economic development. They also arrange funding for redevelopment and general infrastructure projects.

Siebert Brandford Shank & Co. is the first minority and women-owned business enterprise to rank among the top ten senior managing underwriters of municipal bonds. The firm has ranked in the top 15 nationwide over the past several years, and is the #1 ranked MWBE senior managing underwriter in the nation for negotiated municipal issues since 1998.

Noted for his business acumen, involvement in government and politics, and his commitment to education, Thompson has much to offer to those who are on the threshold of starting their careers. “Education is the foundation to moving forward. This doesn’t always mean college. There can be support from trade schools, and one can use education to create support for yourself.”

Thompson remembers his father’s words of wisdom. “No matter what you do, be the best at it. Others will take notice.” “Beliefs instilled at an early age include having guiding principles, values, ideals and integrity, all of which start early and travel through life with you.” “You should not profit at the expense of someone else. Personal integrity is of the utmost importance. Life is not only about success and money; those can be divisive.”



Maurice Coleman Senior Vice President Senior Client Manager Bank Of America Merrill Lynch Global Commercial Banking

Maurice Coleman gives much of the credit for his success in life to his parents, whom he says were “amazing.” Many of the words of wisdom they imparted to him have had a major impact on his life, one of the most profound being, “No one rises to low expectations. Set your goals high, because if you don’t reach, you won’t grow.”

Coleman grew up in poverty, one of five children, but there were many good lessons to be learned. His father was very supportive of his mother and her endeavors

to improve their circumstances. His father worked in the local library in Trenton, it went without saying that education was paramount, hard work was necessary to move forward in life, and service is the price one pays for living on this earth. Then, as now, Coleman saw that it is important to know one’s personal history and to understand one’s lineage and the debt owed back to society.

“Someone paved the way for us to be here. This is why we owe a debt,” says Coleman. He believes that Americans don’t learn enough about history—especially black history—whether about leaders like Garvey, Du Bois, and Douglass, or like defining events from Selma in 1954, Rosa Parks in 1955, and others that have shaped black history.

Because Coleman set his goals high, today he is a senior vice president and senior client manager for the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Commercial Banking team which focuses on Community Banking Development. (CDB). His responsibilities include delivering debt and tax credit equality financing for entities such as affordable housing, retail, charter school and community development real estate projects within the metro New York area and New Jersey areas.

Coleman joined the Bank of Boston in 1999, serving as an investment officer with the BankBoston Development Company (BBDC), where he acquired the skills and expertise that he utilized in his next position with Fleet Development Ventures (FDV). A \$250 million private equity and mezzanine finance boutique, FDV invested direct equity in an area largely underserved at that time, women- and minority-owned businesses.

Becoming New York Market Manager, and Senior CRA Compliance Officer in 2001, Coleman supervised the Bank’s OCC regulatory compliance initiative related CRA service in the areas of lending, investing, corpo-

rate governance and community outreach.

In 2004, Coleman was named senior vice president and managing director of Fleet National Bank’s Community Investment Group (CIG). His team concentrated on private equity, retail banking, and lending to small businesses in New York City and northern New Jersey. They also focused on community development.

Coleman has received many awards: Crain’s New York Business Journal Rising Stars Award; the Urban Financial Services Coalition Executive of the Year Award among them. But one of his proudest accomplishments is being involved in The Capital Preparatory Harlem Charter School. The school, which opened in Fall 2016, came to fruition after five years of discussion between founder Dr. Steve Perry and entertainment mogul/entrepreneur Sean (Diddy) Combs. Coleman sits on the Board of Directors as treasurer.

Receiving a B.A. in history and economics, Coleman also earned an MPA from the School of International and Public Affairs; completed the Management Leadership Program, all at Columbia University and its School of Business. He’s also an alumnus of the Venture Capital Institute. (VCI).

Coleman is chairman of the board of directors of two national community development financial institutions: the Local Initiatives Support Corporation New York, and TruFund Financial Services. He is also past chairman for the Upper Manhattan Empowered Zone. Teaching and lecturing at Columbia, Darden and Harvard Business Schools, he also serves as an advisor for the Eugene Lang Entrepreneurship Center at Columbia Business School.

His advice for rising stars? Get an education. “Think net worth instead of net income. And remember, the best exercise for the heart is to reach back and pull forward or reach down and pull up.”

SALUTING & CELEBRATING
THE 2019 BLACK HISTORY MONTH
CHAMPION AWARDS RECIPIENTS.



Omni New York LLC

would like to congratulate

MAURICE COLEMAN

and the rest of the honorees
for all the terrific and hard work they
do in not only for Brooklyn but in all of New York.



Arlene C. Meyers
Director of Medical Nursing
NYC Health & Hospitals / Coney Island

“Being in the profession for 46 years speaks for itself regarding my passion and commitment for health care.” These words are from Arlene Cynthia Meyers, Director of Medical Nursing at NYC Health & Hospitals/Coney Island, where she has worked since 1973, when she was hired a staff nurse. The 371-bed facility is a general medical and surgical hospital and is rated high-performing in several areas. Now having more than 20 years as Clinical Director, Meyers is responsible for inpatient ambulatory medicine and other areas. She is off-site medical director of the Ida G. Israel Community Health Center. Cur-

rently, she oversees medical/surgical hemodialysis, special procedure and medical ambulatory units. She is also responsible for the day-to-day operations at Coney Island Hospital. And somehow, she finds time to lead or participate in 30 or more leadership committees for patient health care.

A qualified professional, Meyers holds a bachelor’s degree from St. Joseph’s College of Nursing and a master’s degree in Health Administration New School of Social Research. She is a fellow of the New York University Leadership Institute for Black Nurses. Meyers has been published in the CHEST Medical Journal and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses journal.

“I come from a family of diversity,” Meyers says, “which allows me to understand the barriers patients have in reaching their goals of self-management in achieving and sustaining their goals for a healthy lifestyle.” This may be why she is known by her fellow staff members as a compassionate person who listens, gives a hug when needed, and who always has time to discuss patient care. She consoles, and more importantly, she makes herself available to colleagues and patients alike.

It is also known that Meyers’ leadership effects high-performing medical and clinical units, with exceptional, high-quality service standards. Always focused on the care and experience of the patient, she has implemented and executed programs that have improved productivity and effectiveness.

With understanding and compassion, Meyers has guided patients with chronic diseases on how to live their lives more fully. She has worked with the director of Pulmonary Medicine to create the hospital’s pulmonary unit. Both through television and in person, she has coordinated outreach toward

managing asthma, COPD, diabetes, stroke and hypertension.

Those who excel in their work are not always recognized for their efforts, but Meyers has been appreciated and lauded many times. In 1991, she was awarded the Health and Hospitals Corporation Excellence Award for Clinical Practice. NYC Health & Hospitals/Coney Island honored her with the African Heritage Committee Leadership Award in 2001, and the Martin Luther King Outstanding Leadership Award in 2005. She also received the Breakthrough Change Agent honor in 2012.

NYC Health & Hospital/Coney Island has also received recognition of its own, including accreditation for LGBTQ Quality Health Care; Safe Sleep Champions; Joint Commission National Quality Approval; and US News and World Report’s High-Performing rankings in COPD and Heart Failure care. The hospital is a designated AIDS Center and is a Safe Center of Excellence under the Sex Assault Reform Act. In today’s health and hospital world, nursing directors have multi-faceted jobs; the level of expertise needed is extraordinary. Meyers is certainly among those who excel in those standards.

Having lived and worked in the medical field for the greater part of her life, Meyers has some insight to share with others. “My great grandma lived to the ripe old age of 103, and was a great historian about the trials and tribulations she faced as a child. I learned that everyone had a right to live in a world that was created for us, and still today the struggle exists. No matter what goals we set in life, we must pursue and never regret them even if the path takes us to another direction. Be the best in whatever you do. Relax, relate and release negativity in life.”



The Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone
proudly salutes Maurice Coleman and his continued
commitment to the Borough of Brooklyn at the
Brooklyn Daily Eagle’s Black History Month
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Dr. Jocelynn Rainey

Chief Administrative Officer
Executive President
BNYDC

“Be authentic and be proud of who you are. Bring your value to everything you embark on both professionally and personally.” These words of advice, from Jocelynn Rainey, are meant for young people starting out in life and in careers, on forging guiding principles and ideals to live by. Judging by her success, and the esteem in which she is held, it is safe to assume that these are ideals she has incorporated into all aspects of her own life.

Rainey, Chief Administrative Officer and Executive President for the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development

Corporation, (BNYDC), has worked in human resources for more than 20 years. She began her career in 1992 as Director of Training and Development at the Independent Living Association. Rainey’s next career move brought her to Boar’s Head Provisions, an industry giant, as Regional Human Resources Director. Before coming to BNYDC, she was Human Resources Director for Specialty Food retailer Agata and Valentina.

Having gained valuable work experience in the public sector, Rainey was ready to bring her expertise to BNYDC. Joining the Yard in 2011 as Vice President of Human Resources; she became interested in their Employment Center (EC), which strives to provide quality employment opportunities for local residents, placing about 100 people per year in the Yard at that time. Firmly convinced that employment is the means by which to improve the quality of life for marginalized people, her passion was evident. She was promoted to Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Work Development. Under her tutelage, job placements doubled; and there was a notable increase in Yard tenant businesses partnering with the EC, recruiting local workers.

Under her leadership, EC continues to grow, matching over 450 jobs for New Yorkers just last year. Partnering with the Department of Education, EC created Brooklyn Navy Yard’s S.T.E.A.M. Center, a high school program designed to give students hands-on experience in the real world, at the same time addressing the talent deficit found in the tech industry. 150 students had the chance to gain experience at the Yard in design, tech, and manufacturing industries.

As Executive Director, Rainey is responsible for leading the way in producing 100% growth capaci-

ty in the next five years. This entails incorporating more than 240 staff members and overseeing a budget of \$3 million dollars. By standardizing and maintaining a performance culture, she has cultivated staff, individually and organizationally, to develop professionally and to set goals. This has had a great impact on BNYDC, making it possible for them to retain a dedicated, skilled staff. Rainey knows the importance of programs such as the one at BNYDC, and what they can mean in providing a path to better lives for citizens who otherwise might not be able to attain good jobs.

“Throughout my career I understood discrimination plays a role in the high unemployment rate of African American college graduates vs. their white counterparts, but recognized that there is also a gap in soft skills, exposure to the job market and social capital that plays a role.” She knows these gaps can be closed.

“My advice to young people is to network, network, and network. Don’t be shy about connecting with people you don’t know who work in areas of interest to you. Get to know your educators, always have a resume prepared, read, and make sure you are always knowledgeable about the field and/or the company you are interested in entering.”

In her life and her career, Rainey is an active citizen who uses her standing in the community to foster relationships between BNYDC and other organizations who believe in building alliances and achieving goals in local community development.

Rainey recently earned her doctoral degree. She is a member of the New York City Workforce Development Board; a Trustee at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum; and she serves on the New York College of Technology Foundation Board of Directors.



Gregory Calliste

Chief Executive Officer
NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull

Gregory Calliste has been a hospital administrator for more than 30 years. He was appointed in April, 2018 as CEO of Woodhull Hospital, in Northern Brooklyn. Previously, he held positions at North Central Bronx Hospital, St Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan, NYC Health and Hospitals/Kings County, and Kingsboro Psychiatric Center, both in Brooklyn. Calliste also served out-of-state, as chief executive officer of New Orleans General Hospital in Louisiana, and was president/chief executive officer of Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Calliste has been a staunch role model for many

young people, advocating for education. He is well aware that education is one of the most important aspects of achieving success. His message to today’s youth is succinct. “Pursue education required for your profession and obtain required certification. It is better to be told that you’re over-qualified than under-qualified.”

His own education was attained at the New York Institute of Technology, where he earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA), a master’s degree in Public Health from Columbia University; and a bachelor of arts degree from Brooklyn/CUNY. He is a Certified Health Care Executive and Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE). As a strong supporter of education, Calliste has been an adjunct professor at several schools, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has taught at St. Joseph’s College in Downtown Brooklyn; the College of New Rochelle; and the State University of New York/Downstate. His areas of instruction are business and health administration.

At the time of his appointment, Calliste stated that Woodhull, a 338-bed acute care hospital, is committed to partnering with the community. And he has kept that promise. It takes a dedicated leader and staff members to ensure health equity and compassionate, excellent care.

Woodhull Hospital has for more than 35 years served the communities of Bushwick, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Fort Greene. A member of NYC Health & Hospitals, Woodhull services from its center on Broadway in eastern Brooklyn. Woodhull also runs the Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center, four community health centers, six child health clinics and two school-based health centers. Woodhull is affiliated with Langone

Medical Center.

Calliste recognizes that the hospital has a responsibility to keep up with a rapidly-changing Brooklyn, and to assess the borough’s evolving health care needs as well. Woodhull partnered with local politicians, social service agency Cumunlife and NYC Health and Hospitals in developing a building on Throop Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The development has 35 units that will be available (by lottery) to low-income renters who qualify. The partnership’s goal is to provide housing for patients without permanent homes who are being medically discharged from NYC Health & Hospitals/Woodhull.

“Maintain balance in life,” suggests Calliste. “All work and no play makes one dull.” He evidently follows this advice himself, as he stays busy outside of the office. Besides his work at Woodhull and his teaching, this multi-talented individual is also an author, a poet/songwriter, and a recording artist. He has published a book titled, “Forgiveness, the Key to Overcoming, Progressing and Succeeding.” Two other books, “You Cannot Go Wrong With God So Stay Focused on Him” and “Five Essential Goals for a Model Health Care Unit,” are awaiting publication. Calliste has also written and recorded more than 80 Christian songs, and has released four CDs to date.

A man of faith, Calliste offers spiritual words to those who need them, as many young people do nowadays. “Do your part, try your best, and depend on God to do the rest. If it doesn’t happen, it wasn’t meant to be.” He gives his mother credit for this message.

As a consummate health care professional, Calliste strives to see that Woodhull offers the best care possible, remembering the mission to provide comprehensive, quality care in a culturally-sensitive manner to all individuals, regardless of their ability to pay.

Congratulations to this year's Champion Award honorees:

Arlene Cynthia Meyers, RN, MSHA
Director of Medical Nursing, NYC Health + Hospitals/Coney Island

Jocelynn Rainey
Chief Administrative Officer, BNYDC

Deidre Sully, MPH
Executive Director, NY Smoke-Free

Gregory Calliste
Chief Executive Officer, NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull

Eric Adams
Brooklyn Borough President

William Thompson
Chairman, CUNY / Former NYC Comptroller

Benjamin B. Tucker
First Deputy Commissioner, New York Police Department

and our dear friend and colleague
Maurice Coleman
Senior Vice President and New York Market Manager, Bank of America



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Deidre M. Sully, MPH Director, NYC Smoke-Free Public Health Solutions

As Director of Public Health Solutions' (PHS) NYC Smoke-Free program, Deidre Sully focuses on building partnerships that link public and private groups, community outreach, and influence policy change. All of this takes great energy and commitment. But after working in the field of public health for more than fifteen years, Sully is a seasoned professional who has lost none of her drive to ensure that people have equal and equitable opportunities to experience good health care.

Receiving her master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in health policy and man-

agement from Boston University School of Public Health, Sully entered the health care field. Serving as a Research Specialist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, she worked to increase her knowledge of cancer treatment, while managing a multi-center Gastric Cancer Consortium that encompassed nine major medical centers across the United States.

In her role as Director of the Smoke-Free program, which advocates for tobacco control and serves as an advocacy group, Sully leads their mission of protecting the health of New Yorkers, by expanding the current smoke-free conditions around the city and working to end the smoking epidemic. She was the leading representative of the movement to have NYC Smoke-Free partner with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), working together to implement a Smoke-Free Housing Policy, something that has been gaining momentum around the country. They produced a documentary film that brought to the forefront the NYCHA residents' fears, ideas and thoughts about the buildings' becoming smoke-free.

Sully's dedication to serving the health needs of the public has led her over the years to volunteer in organizations. During 2018 she took on added responsibilities as Outreach Coordinator for Red Wrap, a community service that, through ANU Life Global Ministries, provides feminine hygiene products to homeless women. She also partners with shelters around the New York City metropolitan area, hosting events to distribute donations. She coordinated three Red Wrap events with two major shelters, where products were distributed. She has helped to raise more than \$8000, in both supplies and funds, so they could carry out their initiative. One of these

events, of which Sully is very proud, was held on the International Day of the Woman, March 8, 2018. They extend more than products; they also provide education, knowledge and services to women both sheltered and unsheltered, never forgetting the homeless have the same needs as other women.

Sully is a hands-on advocate. She argues and supports policy. She volunteers extensively, and offers her services in a variety of ways. "It's one thing to say it, it's another thing to do it," she says.

After earning a B.A. from the University of Scranton, Pa., Sully considered entering medical school. But she soon realized that her vision had a broader scope, that of working with public health providers and other organizations that would look to the overall wellness of the public, in practice and in influencing public health policy. She wanted to be there for the entire community, working toward her personal and professional goal of leaving the community better than she found it.

Having received some valuable advice along her own life and career path, she has some wisdom to pass on to others, both those who want to enter the public health field, and others who may choose different paths.

"Truth, I've learned, is very important. So is self-examination. Name yourself, create for yourself. Truth must always be the center of what we do." On achieving success, she says, "Always have a plan A, but be flexible." This is advice she heeded when deciding to change her career path. She shares another piece of advice: "I always try to see the truth within me so that I can recognize the truth outside of me." She thanks her mother for her inspiration, and works to pass that inspiration onto others.



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Did You Know About These Brilliant Minds?



Dr. Shirley Jackson

Dr. Jackson is an American physicist who received her Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1973. She was the first African-American woman to earn a doctorate in nuclear physics at MIT.
Major Developments: touchtone telephones, caller ID, fiber-optic cable.



Lewis Latimer

Inventor and engineer Lewis Latimer was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, on September 4, 1848. He collaborated with science greats Hiram Maxim and Thomas Edison.
Major Developments: carbon filament



Maria Ban Brittan Brown

Did you know that the first home security system was invented by a Black nurse? Meet Marie Van Brittan Brown. Although she was a full-time nurse, she recognized the security threats to her home and devised a system that would alert her of strangers at her door and contact relevant authorities as quickly as possible.
Major developments: closed-circuit television security



Otis Boykin

Otis Boykin's most notable contribution to science was likely the circuit improvements he made to pacemakers after losing his mother to heart failure—a contribution that has saved countless lives since.
Major Developments: IBM Computer, pacemaker.



Lonnie Johnson

Did you ever enjoy water gun fights as a kid? Well, meet Lonnie Johnson, the man who gave us the most famous water gun—the Super Soaker. Lonnie wasn't a toymaker, he was an Aerospace Engineer for NASA with a resume boasting a stint with the US Air Force, work on the Galileo Jupiter probe and Mars Observer project, and more than 40 patents.
Major Developments: the Super Soaker, Johnson Thermoelectric Energy Converter.



Charles Drew

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. Thanks to Charles Drew, that blood is available. Drew was a physician, surgeon, and medical researcher who worked with a team at the Red Cross on groundbreaking discoveries around blood transfusions. In World War II, he played a major role in developing the first large-scale blood banks and blood plasma programs.
Major Developments: the blood bank



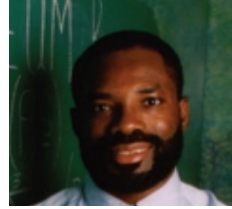
Marian Croak

In 2013, Marian Croak was inducted into Women in Technology International's hall of fame, a move that recognizes her remarkable achievements in tech. Croak holds over 135 patents, primarily in voice-over Internet protocol (VoIP), some in other areas.
Major Developments: VOIP



Lisa Gelobter

Lisa Gelobter was integrally involved with the advent of Shockwave, a technology that formed the beginning of web animation. She also played a major role in the emergence of online video, later serving on the senior management team at Hulu.
Major Developments: Shockwave (genesis of animation on the web) online video



Dr. Philip Emeagwali

As an adult, Emeagwali began studying nature, specifically bees. The construction of the honeycomb inspired him to rethink computer processing. In 1989, he put this idea to work, using 65,000 processes to invent the world's first super computer—able to perform 3.1 billion calculations per second.
Major Developments: World's fastest computer



Jesse Ernest Wilkins, Jr.

His greatest contributions to scholarship were the development of mathematical models to explain gamma radiation and his work on developing a shielding against gamma radiation. His other claim to fame came from working on the Manhattan Project with future Nobel laureate Eugene Wigner. Together, they made significant contributions to nuclear-reactor physics, now known as the Wilkins effect and the Wigner-Wilkins spectrum.
Major Developments: mathematical models to explain gamma radiation.



Elijah McCoy

Often regarded as one of the most famous black inventors ever, McCoy was credited for 50 inventions over the span of his career. In an effort to improve efficiency and eliminate the frequent stopping necessary for lubrication of trains, McCoy devised a method of automating the task. In 1872 he developed a "lubricating cup" that could automatically drip oil when and where needed—vital in preventing trains from sticking to the track. The lubricating cup met with enormous success; and orders for it came in from railroad companies all over the country.
Major Developments: Lubricators that revolutionized steam engines and railroad industry

The Brooklyn Navy Yard

congratulates Jocelynne Rainey and all of tonight's honorees



salutes

THE CHAMPIONS OF 2019 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Brooklyn TechAlumni Foundation

Larry Cary
President

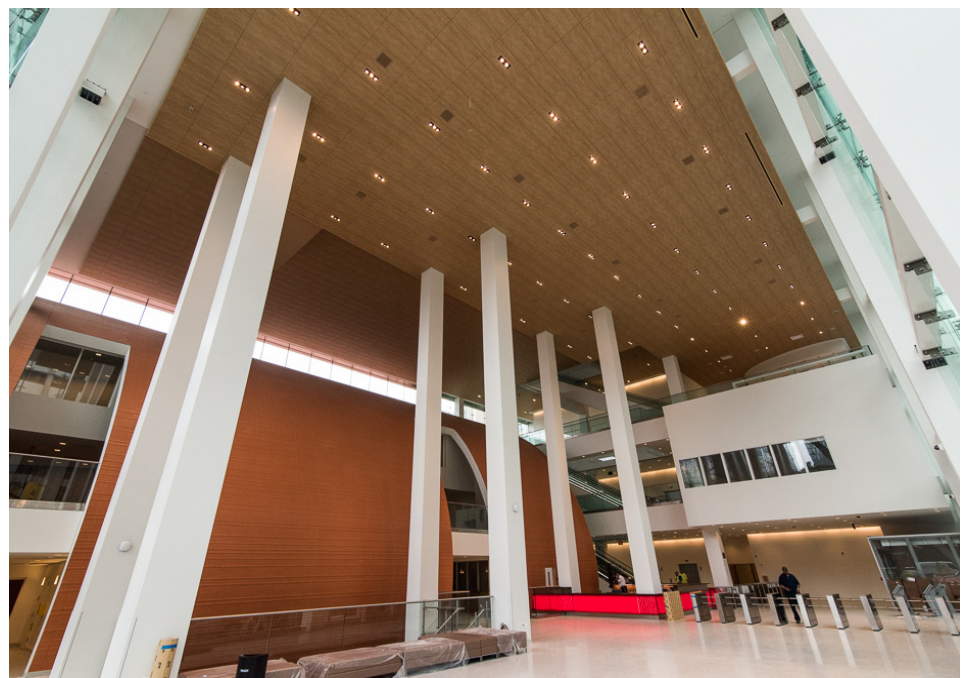
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The *Wonderful*
Jocelynne Rainey



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