



presents

A large graphic of the number '70' where the '7' is white and the '0' is a thick gold circle. To the right of the '70' is the text 'OVER SEVENTY' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'OVER' in gold and 'SEVENTY' in white. Below this is the text 'THE NEXT CHAPTER AWARDS' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

70 OVER
SEVENTY
THE NEXT CHAPTER AWARDS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024

hannan.org/70overSeventy



Honoring those who prove Impact is Ageless

at a glance



OUR ECOSYSTEM

We do our work in three main sectors

DIRECT SOCIAL SERVICES

CREATIVE AGING

REFRAMING AGING

OUR NORTH STAR

We will continue to work toward these enduring purposes

VISION

The vision of Hannan Center is that older adults are respected, valued, empowered to reach their potential and connected to a community of their choice

MISSION

The mission of Hannan Center is to preserve the dignity and enhance the quality of life for older adults 55+ in Michigan

VALUES

Commitment to Healthy Aging
Empowerment
Respect
Innovation



Dear Friends and Honored Guests,

Welcome to Hannan Center's 70 Over Seventy: The Next Chapter award program, a celebration of our vibrant senior community's extraordinary achievements and enduring potential!

At Hannan Center, we firmly believe that creativity, talent, and the ability to make a difference don't have an expiration date. Today's winners testify to this truth; they showcase the remarkable accomplishments of those who continue to push, thrive, and contribute despite society telling them they should slow down and relax.

Some of our honorees may fit the definition of a super senior, a rare individual with exceptional physical and cognitive abilities well into their later years. But the majority have a purpose-driven life and a don't-quit attitude that says there are some things they want to accomplish before they leave this planet. No matter how they feel in the morning, whether it's to jump into sneakers and run a few miles or spend several minutes massaging out the night's aches and creaks, they believe in their power to make a difference in the lives of their families and communities.

For this reason, and because we believe seniors are an invaluable societal resource and asset, Hannan wanted to highlight and showcase the critical jobs and roles people continue to perform long after retiring. However, many of us cling to negative aging beliefs that devalue the combination of talent, potential, and experience that our older generations offer.

As a result, Hannan began this recognition program to combat ageism and change the narrative we tell ourselves about getting older. By spotlighting the impressive accomplishments of those over 70, we seek to shatter the stereotypes of the feeble and frail older person AND the super senior myth. We acknowledge the challenges of age-related decline, but we don't want them to define our capacity to make a difference in our communities.

Hannan Center is thrilled to honor an exceptional group of seniors across seven diverse categories this year. From arts and culture to community service, business innovation, and lifelong learning, our award winners represent how older people continue to shape our world. Our honorees are beacons of inspiration, not only for their peers but also for younger generations. They embody the spirit of lifelong growth and contribution, proving that one's later years can be among the most fulfilling and impactful.

At the core of this awards program is Hannan Center's commitment to preserving the dignity and enhancing the quality of life for seniors. Celebrating these outstanding individuals reinforces the importance of purpose, engagement, and respect for all older adults.

As you read these bios, I know their stories will inspire you. I also hope that they will motivate you to view your retirement years through a more hopeful lens. After all, people who have positive aging beliefs have longer lifespans than those who don't. So, let's celebrate the wisdom, creativity, and potential that flourish with age!

Warm regards,

Vince



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

CHAIR

DEBORAH BROUWER - *Nemeth Bonnette Brouwer PC*

VICE CHAIR

DR. THOMAS B. JANKOWSKI - *Wayne State University, Institute of Gerontology*

SECRETARY

MARCIA BAUM - *Retired, State of Michigan*

TREASURER

LENORA HARDY-FOSTER - *Judson Center*

TRUSTEES

LARRY BRYANT - *Comerica Bank*

BEVERLY HALL BURNS - *Miller Canfield*

RANDAL CHARLTON - *Retired, Tech Town*

DR. RUTH E. DUNKLE - *University of Michigan, School of Social Work*

KATHLEEN GRAHAM - *Retired, Neighborhood Legal Services*

ANTONIA HARBIN LAMB, MBA, JD - *Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan*

EVAN HO - *TIAA*

ERIC MILLER - *Stellantis*

CAROLE MORISSEAU - *Artist*

MARY MEYER NEFF - *Retired, Licensed Master Social Worker*

JASON PAULATEER - *Fifth Third Bank*

CHE PETERSON, JD - *Professor - Michigan State University, Broad College of Business*



SPECIAL THANKS

2024 70 Over Seventy Selection Committee

LaCynthia Murray Dorman

Robyn Drake

Edwanda Edwards

William Chuck Jackson, PhD

Stuart Kirschenbaum, PhD

Glenda Price

BRAZEAL DENNARD CHORALE

Entertainment

The Brazeal Dennard Chorale was founded in 1972 by Detroit educator and artistic director, Dr. Brazeal W. Dennard (1929-2010). We are an organization of highly-trained adult singers, dedicated to developing the art of chorale singing to its highest professional level. We are also deeply committed to remembering, discovering and preserving the music of African-American composers and composers of African-American descent.

Since 2015, The Chorale has been under the artistic direction of Alice McAllister-Tillman. As a soprano, renowned for her impeccable coloratura, she brings all of Dr. Dennard's teachings. Her musical interpretation is both provocative and spell-binding – delivered with unmatched award-winning vocal prowess.

In 1978, Dr. Dennard and his close friends were instrumental in inaugurating an annual concert series called "Classical Roots," in collaboration with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra. The mission was quite the same as always, only adding the component of purely orchestral works by African-American composers as well. After only three years, audiences outgrew the original venue at Historic Bethel A.M.E. Church and were siphoned into the Symphony's larger, new- restored, Orchestra Hall where the Brazeal Dennard Chorale has continued as guest artists, rather than as hosting artists.

The Brazeal Dennard Chorale aspires to continue its efforts to maintain the tradition of excellence in choral music and to share this excellence with audiences everywhere.





PROGRAM

ENTERTAINMENT

The Hannan Center Players

Brazeal Dennard Chorale

Special thanks to Mr. James Cohen, Sr.

WELCOME

Mary Sheffield, Detroit City Council President

Deborah Brouwer, Board President

Vincent Tilford, President and CEO

Roop Raj, Master of Ceremonies

PRESENTATION OF 70 OVER SEVENTY

Art Awards

Changemaker Awards

Civic & Community Leadership Awards

Entrepreneurship Awards

Lifelong Learning Awards

Unsung Hero Awards

Lifetime Achievement Awards

CLOSING REMARKS



ROOP RAJ *Master of Ceremonies*

Hi there, I am the evening anchor and host of Let it Rip on FOX 2 News.

My career started at age 14 when I produced and hosted my own television program in Troy, Mich. In my first two years at Michigan State University, I was on the air at the CBS & ABC stations in Lansing, Mich.

I was then hired to anchor the news in Flint, Mich. where I did news and weather for four years. That was followed by seven years at NBC in New Orleans. After 24 hurricanes including Katrina, I moved to Detroit in '09 where an economic storm was brewing. I am an ardent believer in the city's future.

FOX 2 led the way during the 2020 elections, bringing you more exclusives than any other station in town. I was proud to have nailed down three exclusive, one on one interviews with then candidate Joe Biden. I also secured three, one on one exclusives with former President Trump. My final interview landed me in the Rose Garden with a one on one with Trump for 15 minutes at the White House. Election Day was exciting. After getting access to candidate Kamala Harris in Detroit, I decided to call the White House and ask if former VP Pence would be game for a phone interview. He called my cell phone minutes later, capping off an extraordinary political season.

I believe getting exclusives is about building relationships with people. I am committed to continuing this connection with our community so that we can bring you stories you won't see anywhere else.

I am also a public speaking coach and keynote speaker. At TEDxDetroit in 2019, I headlined with my talk highlighting the gifts of rejection.

I live with my wife, Julie, and our boxer pup Louise. In my spare time I enjoy cooking, traveling and reading. I hate wearing winter caps but I love a good baseball cap on the weekends as we hack around parks throughout the area.

My parents live down the road and I am so happy they are able to watch me on TV every night. There's nothing like coming home.

SPONSORS

GOLD



HAP CareSource™

SILVER

AARP®
Michigan

Humana®

BRONZE



Comerica Bank



GJC

CPAs | ADVISORS

Morgan Stanley

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**Beverly Hall Burns, Evan Ho & Jennifer Tang,
Lenora Hardy-Foster, Mary Meyer Neff**



● **OLDER ADULT RESOURCES**

Support connecting to programs and services for seniors such as Medicare/Medicaid, transportation, food/nutrition, housing, legal services, and mental health counseling. Managed by licensed professionals. Free and confidential.

● **COMPASSIONATE DEMENTIA CARE**



Safe and secure day program for older adults living with dementia. Social and therapeutic activities. Affordable full and half day options.

● **CREATIVE AGING + WELLNESS CLASSES**

Professionally-led classes that provide social interaction, personal enrichment, and intellectual growth. Fine arts, theater, creative writing, culture-based wellness such as yoga and tai chi, and more.

● **KAYROD GALLERY**

Dedicated to highlighting older adult artists, both professional and amateur, and providing a venue for the community to come together for artistic exploration and discovery.

Aging is a Journey...

DISCOVER WHAT'S POSSIBLE AT HANNAN CENTER





Congratulations to our 2024 AWARDEES

ART

Richard Bennett
Harriet Berg
James Cohen, Sr.
Carol Cook Reid
Patricia Davis
Gary Glaser
Bruce James Hunt
Christine Lawson
Joya Rush Keli
Alinda Wasner

CHANGEMAKER

John C. Barber, Jr.
Buddy Budson
Henry L. Cade
Dr. H.B. Calder
Cedric & Brenda Franklin
Carmen N'Namdi
Marsha Battle Philpot
Rev. Betty Pulliam
Dr. Loretta Smith
Esther Woodward

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Linda C. Allen
Brenda Carter
Bronson Gentry, Jr.
Regina Lawson
Frances Lewis
Dr. Beth Glover Reed
Allen M. Seder
Beverly Smith
Deborah White
Ora Williams

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Khadijah Ali
Dr. Janice Louise Cardwell
Wisetta Dolsey
Acquanetta Glass
Darwin Griffin
John N. Henderson
Dr. Adrienne Booth Johnson
Dennis King
Lennette Martin
Rabbi Alon Tolwin

LIFELONG LEARNING

Dr. Patricia Wendolyn Coleman-Burns
Carolyn Hall
Terrell Hill
Christopher Hood
Virginia Hosbach
Bennie Latimer
Inez Martin
Jorge Prósperi
Marian Camille Stephens
Mary Jo Tucker

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Harvey W. Berman, esq.
Wayne Brown
Cllr. Theretha Dixon
Dr. Gloria House
Jackie Kallen
Dr. Walter Robert McLean
Prof. Willis C. Patterson
Ralph Taylor
Hilda Vest
Ursula Walker

UNSUNG HERO

Adrienne D. Adams
Sabiha Ashraf
Rev. Joe Johnson, esq.
Mary Jones
Jackie Lambert
Xuemo Lu
Mary Marinelli
Euresia Shields
Bobbie Tarbunas

Josephine Henry
Gentry-Smith Huyghe*

**posthumously*



ART

These awardees participate in the creation, teaching and/or development of art. They continue to improve communities by giving them greater access to art, increasing their knowledge of the craft, and creating exceptional work.

CHANGEMAKER

These awardees have created innovative solutions to known challenges within their communities. They are leaders in developing social, cultural, and economic change to improve lives and make lasting change.

CIVIC & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

These awardees have fostered a spirit of service in others by maintaining meaningful involvement in civic service. The depth and scope of their work has had a great impact on the communities they serve, and their inspiring commitment and passion to their work continues to bring others into service.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

These awardees will have entrepreneurial spirit and initiative. They will have taken the time to shape ideas into well performing ventures as well as operationalize innovation and demonstrate resilience. Awardees will have either newly entered the entrepreneurship field by starting or supporting a new business or have owned and operated their own business within the last 10 years.

LIFELONG LEARNING

These awardees will have demonstrated a lively curiosity and willingness to study new subjects or have a serious involvement with a specific subject matter. They will treat learning itself as a valued part of life and through it found ways to continuously recreate themselves through personal and/or professional growth. They will have an enthusiastic lifelong commitment to learning.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

These awardees have made outstanding and significant contributions to their communities in their lifetime and exemplify aging in a way that others aspire to experience. These awardees continue to participate in new careers, mentorship opportunities, volunteerism, and other impactful endeavors.

UNSUNG HERO

These awardees have consistently contributed their talents, skills, and support to family, friends, and neighbors with little recognition. They have a deep, tireless, and quiet commitment to service that enhances the quality of life in their communities, and positively influence many circumstances from behind the scenes.

2024 AWARDEES | ART



RICHARD BENNETT

Richard Bennett is a sculptor, furniture designer, custom fabricator, certified journeyman welder, and the founder and president of Richard Bennett & Associates (RBA), which has been in business in Detroit for over 40 years. Richard is well known in the art community and has executed several public commissions. His works have been exhibited in major cities around the world, including New York, Chicago, Paris, and Toyota Japan—Detroit’s Sister City. His style is futuristic, incorporating shapes and forms from everyday life. His pieces balance precision with nature, offering visual perspectives of speed, power and flight, and may evoke sensations of flirting with gravity. Professionals in high-end architectural design and construction rely on Richard as their stainless steel and metal consultant. This has led to his and his company’s work in custom stainless-steel fabrication, including deck railings, staircases, theater lobbies, museum exterior facias, doors, lighting fixtures, fireplaces, and other details of architectural design. Richard has mentored and continues to mentor aspiring artists, including students from The College of Creative Studies, Wayne State and Eastern Michigan Universities, and exchange students from Japan, first at his original northwest Detroit studio and currently at the RBA studio on Brainard Street in Midtown.



HARRIET BERG

Harriet Berg has spent her lifetime as a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and advocate for dance in Detroit and beyond. Harriet Jean (Jeanie) Waratt was born in 1924 in Detroit. She was married to the sculptor Irving Berg for 63 years, until his death in 2009. While a dance teacher at Wayne State University, she envisioned Detroit as a recognized center of modern, folk, and historical dance. She was founder and artistic director of the Detroit-based dance groups Renaissance Dance Company, Madame Cadillac Dance Theater, Belles and Bachelors of Fort Detroit, and Isadora Duncan Dance Ensemble. The American dancers Isadora Duncan, Merce Cunningham, Twyla Tharp, Martha Graham, and Louis Falco were her mentors and friends. As an advisor to Detroit Opera founder and artistic director David DiChiera, she was instrumental in bringing emerging modern dance companies to Detroit’s Music Hall, which became known as “The Dance Center of the Midwest.” With her own companies, Harriet choreographed performances inspired by folk tales and songs, Biblical stories, American, Jewish and Israeli folk themes, and French and Detroit history. These works are still performed in both religious and secular venues. At 99, she continues to act as a mentor, advisor, and inspiration to students and fellow dancer/choreographers, and to support the future of dance in Detroit.



JAMES COHEN, SR.

James Cohen, Sr. is a 94-year-old virtuoso boogie-woogie, jazz and blues pianist, based in Detroit. He started recording in the early 1960s and continued to release self-produced records, cassettes and CDs well into the 2000’s. As a member of the James Cohen Trio he set the atmosphere at Detroit’s “Top of the Flame” nightclub in Minoru Yamasaki’s iconic Gas Building, then performed at Mr. Paul’s Chop House for 48 years until his retirement. “I have to set the atmosphere, that’s my job. There’s a lot of attitudes—I bring them all together.” James now performs, playing strictly from memory, in fundraising concerts for the Detroit School of Acting, a comprehensive curriculum in theatrical training for the growth and development of youth in Detroit communities. In June 2024, at 93, he accompanied jazz chanteuse Kimmie Horne in a recital at Metropolitan United Methodist Church. He is married to singer and producer Yolanda Owens.



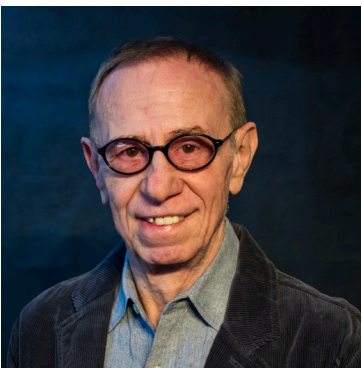
CAROL COOK REID

Carol Cook Reid is a visual artist whose talent and large body of work have earned numerous invitations and awards from exhibitors and competitions throughout Michigan and beyond. At 82, she continues to produce and push the boundaries of creativity. Going outside is her inspiration; she spends much time on Belle Isle with her camera, along the riverfront, through the woods and in the park, searching the natural images for their emotional values and how they relate to one another. This translates to the immediately recognizable style of her paintings—the reduction to bold, essential shapes, the vivid but limited selection of colors, the intimacy between foreground and background—that expresses, in her words, “beauty, love, joy, sorrow.” Carol is a long-time member of the Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club and numerous other arts organizations. She sits on the boards of several of them. But even as a busy working artist she finds time to support her community, friends and family. She is committed and active in the historic Central United Methodist Church, and is a force in its Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery. Her spirit and constant presence are an inspiration to everyone around her.



PATRICIA DAVIS

Patricia Davis stands out as a paragon of creativity, volunteerism, and unwavering family support. She’s dedicated her life to community plays and outreach to the less fortunate. For more than four decades, she has been the creative force behind events at her church. As a director, playwright, and sometimes actor, she has brought countless stories to life, enriching the cultural fabric of our town. Her productions are more than mere performances; they bring the community together, fostering a sense of belonging and shared experience among participants. Her inclusive approach to casting and production ensures that everyone, from children to seniors, has the opportunity to contribute and excel. She has a unique talent for identifying potential in individuals and nurturing their talents, often igniting a lifelong passion for the arts. Pat’s contributions extend far beyond the stage. Her tireless volunteerism is a testament to her compassion for others and commitment to making a difference. Pat has written more than ten plays, having performed in four of them; and as of summer 2024, at age 70, she has two in production.



GARY GLASER

Gary Glaser has enjoyed a 50-year career in documentary filmmaking and teaching. His work has raised community awareness of social and artistic issues in the Los Angeles and Detroit areas, and has won numerous awards. After earning the first Independent Study/Film-TV degree at Oakland University, Gary went to work on the IATSE (stage entertainment workers) Union Television Lot in Hollywood, where he directed *Bombing L.A.*, about urban graffiti art, and the Emmy-winning *Justiceville*. Returning to Detroit, he got his master’s at Wayne State, then became a film and video production instructor for the Kalamazoo public schools. After advising on a new documentary about the Detroit Techno music scene, Gary stayed on to become a film instructor at Henry Ford College in Dearborn. In the years since then, his company has produced numerous well-regarded documentaries focused on Detroit, including *Train Station*, about Michigan Central Station; *The Hudson’s Building*, on the 106-year-old building prior to its demolition in 1998; the Emmy-winning *Borderline*, on metro Detroit’s notorious boundary, 8 Mile Road; and—at age 65—the multiple-Emy-winning *Stranded At The Corner: The Battle to Save Historic Tiger Stadium*. Gary continues to mentor a new generation of journalists and film production artists.



BRUCE JAMES HUNT

For more than 40 years and four generations of dancers, Bruce James Hunt has contributed significantly to our international community's advancement through the Art of Dance. As Co-Founder/Executive Director of the Detroit-Windsor Dance Academy (DWDA), he has been responsible for guiding and leading more than 15,000 dancers, aged 2 to 95, preparing them for personal expression and fitness, performance, professional dance, teaching, and dance ministry. Born in Detroit to a military family, Bruce received his early education here, then lived in various places in the world, graduating High School in Panama in 1966. He spent most of his college years at Eastern Michigan University, where he excelled in athletics, science, music, and history. He co-founded the DWDA in 1984. As a lifetime member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, he also has been dedicated to providing leadership for Black men. After recuperating from spinal surgery at 73 and a stroke at 74, he returned to work at the DWDA, where he remains at the helm. Bruce has received many awards for his work, and continues to make a difference in the lives and careers of artists, through the positive influence, consistent fortitude, and wisdom of a man undeterred by age.



CHRISTINE LAWSON

Christine Lawson is a writer, actor, and storyteller. As a writer, she composes and performs lyric poetry on her life, history, and the journey of aging. As an actor, she's a 15-year member of The Hannan Players, a theatrical troupe who perform throughout the year at the Center, including regularly on Detroit's annual Noël Night, and at other locations around the city. As a storyteller, she is first and foremost a history educator. She has been a storyteller on the Underground Railroad experience at First Congregational Church in Detroit. She has participated in the Memorial of the 1967 Detroit Rebellion, educating adults and youth who may have had little personal context of the rebellion. She tells stories at nursing homes and other venues in the Detroit metropolitan area. She concentrates on the experience of the African Diaspora in America, but as American history and not simply Black history. Christine has not slowed down. Recently she worked on an intergenerational project with Inside/Out Literary Arts of Detroit. She is always willing to participate in educating and working with youth.



JOYA RUSH KELI

Joya Rush-Keli is a talented, enthusiastic artist whose work has been collected by Fisk University's Van Vechten Gallery in Nashville, Tennessee and by art patrons around the country. She grew up in Detroit and is a Fisk alumna. She worked 30 years as a school social worker for Detroit Public Schools, and used drawing as part of her work with children, including those with learning disabilities. She found that her pupils' drawings of their families revealed how well those families functioned. The mother of one son, Joya was caregiver to her own mother when she became ill. After retirement, Joya studied with the artist Walter J. Williams and made art her full-time passion. Her work is noted for its exuberant color, variety of media, and abstraction. She treasures her time and association with fellow students and instructors in the art community at Hannan Center and continues to support fledgling artists. She loves to travel, and has taken people to art openings in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Chicago. She has been President of the Detroit Society for Women Painters and Sculptors. She belongs to and has shown her work with many distinguished local organizations, including the National Conference of Artists, Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club, Detroit Artist Market, and Center for Creative Studies.



ALINDA WASNER

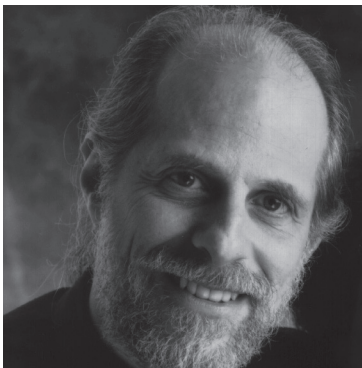
Alinda Wasner is one of Detroit's foremost poets. Retired from 37 years' service as a Michigan public school secondary teacher and community college adjunct, Alinda lives and writes in metro Detroit. Her work has appeared in more than 70 major, small press, and online journals. She has won many literary prizes including the Tompkins Award, Wittenberg University Writer's Award, Atlanta Review Prize, Mr. Cogito Press Award, Chicago Poetry Center juried prize, MacGuffin Prize, Detroit Metro Times Award, Judith Siegal Pearson Prize, Paumonauk Poetry Prize, and Prague Writer's Fellowship, among others. In 2012 she was awarded second place among 2,000 entrants in Ireland's International Poetry competition. She won the 2019 and 2020 Springfed Arts Poetry Prize. Her books include the collections *Still Burning* (2015) and *The Day Sky* (2024), and the chapbooks *When You Don't Know Who You Are* (2016) and *Kissing the Ikons* (2013). Alinda has volunteered for many years at Interfaith Action, where she served as President in the 1990s. Since 1968 she has been active in support of peace and justice causes, including civil rights and women's health issues. She's been published in 80 anthologies, and her new collection, *Heart Houdini*, will be out in 2025 from May Apple Press. She continues to offer her work on the blog thestarvingpoet.com.

2024 AWARDEES | CHANGEMAKER



JOHN C. BARBER, JR.

John Barber has affected many lives through his efforts to provide solutions for the sedentary lifestyle epidemic. At age 90, Mr. Barber conducts virtual aerobics classes from the Hannan Center in Detroit; he was nominated for this recognition by his current students. As many as 50 online participants, tuned in at home, may sit or stand, try to keep up with him as he demonstrates, or move at their own pace. They include one who is 103 years young. The exercises are accompanied by music, and sweating is involved—although it is not Mr. Barber who sweats. The impact improves mobility, balance and brain health. There also is social time while members log on. All of these factors motivate the body to move. Classes are held without regard to the holidays. If a member misses some classes, Mr. Barber will touch base personally to make sure everything is okay. He continues to vary the program and is still going strong in his tenth decade. A Detroit native, John Barber now resides in Southfield.



BUDDY BUDSON

Distinguished pianist and composer Buddy Budson has been a prominent figure in the Detroit jazz scene for over 46 years. His mastery of the piano and his innovative compositions have earned him respect and admiration from peers and audiences alike. He has performed and toured with notable artists including drummer Buddy Rich, guitarist Earl Klugh, and the Motown group The Four Tops, not to mention his wife, the vocalist Ursula Walker (also a 70 Over Seventy honoree this year). He has backed legendary musicians Henry Mancini, Mel Torme, Sammy Davis, Jr., Marlena Shaw, Charles McPherson, and others. As a changemaker, Buddy Budson has been instrumental in pushing the boundaries of jazz, incorporating diverse influences into his music and inspiring others to explore new creative directions. His work has helped evolve Detroit's rich musical heritage. At the same time, he has played a vital role in preserving and promoting jazz in Detroit. Through his educational initiatives and workshops he has encouraged new generations of musicians and reinforced the city's musical legacy. Buddy Budson's lifelong dedication to music, his role as a mentor, and his innovative spirit have not only enriched the arts but have also made a lasting impact on the community and future generations of musicians.



HENRY L. CADE

Henry L. Cade was born into a family devoted to education and civic and community engagement. From his days as a Boy Scout until today at age 78, Henry's life has built on family characteristics. After graduating from Wayne State University he began his 54-year career in education at Ralph Bunche Elementary in Detroit, impacting and shaping the minds of youth, improving systems and processes, encouraging and influencing. He accepted a position with the Newark, New Jersey Board of Education in 1971, later returning to Detroit to continue in educational consulting. He then worked with and retired from Wayne RESA/ Department of Education. He remains an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi since college and a longtime member of two Optimist Club Organizations. He's involved in four different health project committees with the WSU School of Medicine. He grows vegetables at home and gives them to neighbors and family. Henry staffs the security/information desk at his church, Fellow Chapel, four days a week, and drives the church van for members without transportation to services. His love for African American culture led to a recent pilgrimage to Ghana, where he received his Ghanaian name, "Kwabena," in a traditional naming ceremony.



DR. H.B. CALDER

H.B. Calder was the founder and owner of BioTronics, an Ann Arbor company that provided spinal cord monitoring to hospitals specializing in high tech spine and brain surgery. While leading BioTronics, Dr. Calder took his staff and equipment to Ghana each year for almost ten years, and performed these services without charge. The quality of monitoring and compassionate care that he required of his staff was always excellent. After selling his company Dr. Calder began to support a senior daycare center on the east side of Detroit. He visits the facility with his wife, sits and chats with the clients, they feel special, cared about. He takes them out to eat, has lunch with them, shows an interest in them as individuals, brings gifts at Christmastime. He has contributed to this daycare consistently since it opened in 2017. Far beyond donations of money, he helps in program development, his input is multi-factorial and crucial to the survival of the center. Dr. Calder is dedicated to improving the lives of seniors and especially those who may be struggling. He is one of the most giving and humble of humans. He always has a desire to improve the quality of life, physical or emotional. He changes lives.



CEDRIC & BRENDA FRANKLIN

Life and marriage coaches Cedric and Brenda Franklin are a couple of sockdolagers. Over the years their help and encouragement have touched many lives. They are founders of Kingdom Resource Management (KRM), a bible-based organization centered on Christian principles, which provides pre- and postmarital coaching with the aim of sustaining the promise, "I do!". With KRM's guidance, individuals and couples learn to overcome challenges by seeing their lives from a divine perspective. KRM also offers Transformational Ministries, to bring the power of the Holy Spirit into people's lives through faith, prayer, signs and wonders. Cedric holds a bachelor's degree in management and organizational development. As a certified Facilitator, Speaker and Trainer, he has had the opportunity to work with individuals from all walks of life, helping them identify and reach their goals. Brenda holds a postgraduate degree in social work and has built strong people skills over decades of experience as a Facilitator conducting Family Team meetings. Cedric and Brenda are themselves a team that sees age not as a barrier but as a reason to continue to pour hope and enrichment into the married lives of others.



CARMEN N'NAMDI

Carmen N'Namdi founded the Nataki Talibah Schoolhouse of Detroit in 1978 with her husband, the noted Midtown gallerist George R. N'Namdi. They named the independent grade school for the 14-month-old daughter they lost, Nataki Talibah. Carmen's philosophy guided the values and direction of the school: to educate the whole child by providing a positive concept of culture and ethnicity. Its program included transcendental meditation and an emphasis on the arts. To counter the inaccurate and harmful images of African Americans in many standard textbooks, Carmen created her own materials. Each child was taught that he or she is the norm, to think globally from an African center, and to appreciate goodness and accomplishment without regard to differences in race, religion or ethnicity. For 38 years the school outperformed local and state public schools. It was closed in 2016 during the period of emergency management of Detroit schools. Carmen N'Namdi has served as Board chair of the National Charter School Institute, an advisor for the David Lynch Foundation, a member of the Board of Directors for the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, and a member of the Board of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies.



MARSHA BATTLE PHILPOT

Marsha Battle Philpot, aka Marsha Music, aka The Detroitist, is a writer, poet, and cultural historian. Daughter of legendary Hastings Street record producer, Joe Von Battle, and a veteran of social and labor activism, she has lived in Highland Park and Detroit all of her life. She speaks to students, scholars, filmmakers and international visitors and is published in numerous anthologies and periodicals. She has appeared in podcasts and documentaries on HBO, Peacock, Prime, History, MSNBC, Apple, PBS, and in the series "Gospel," produced by Dr. Henry Louis Gates. Ms. Music was awarded the prestigious Kresge Literary Arts Fellowship in 2012, and a 2015 Knight Arts Challenge award. She received acclaim for her one woman shows and her poetic narrations in performance with the Detroit Symphony (2015) and Detroit Opera (2020). She is featured in the Advanced Style books and social media celebrating mature individuals of style, and in Hour Detroit and Marie Claire Magazines—and walked the African World Festival runway. She is a member of the State of Michigan Civil Rights Historic Sites Committee, and in 2023, she received the "Spirit of Detroit" award and a "Special Tribute From The State Of Michigan" She serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Marsha Music is a mother, advisor and champion of Detroit, her beloved city.



REV. BETTY PULLIAM

Rev. Betty Pulliam has spent decades quietly transforming lives and empowering individuals through education and mentorship, primarily through her more than 40 years as president and director of the Payne-Pulliam School of Trade and Commerce. The school, founded in 1973 by her late husband, Dr. William Pulliam, has been a beacon of hope for countless Detroit residents. Under her leadership, the school has focused on serving youth and adults on social assistance, providing them with the tools and confidence needed to secure employment and achieve financial independence. Betty has been instrumental in expanding the school's reach and impact, ensuring that it remains a vital resource for those seeking to improve their lives. During her watch the school has touched more than 50,000 Detroiters. Her commitment to education and workforce development is further exemplified by her frequent collaboration with local businesses and government agencies to create opportunities for Detroit residents. At age 84, Rev. Betty Pulliam is as passionate and committed as ever. Beyond her work at the Payne-Pulliam School, she remains an active member of the Greater New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, where she extends her influence and support to even more individuals in the community. Her story reminds us of the impact one person can have on the world.



DR. LORETTA SMITH

As executive director of the Tri-City Community Development Corporation, Dr. Loretta Smith has played a pivotal role in empowering the residents of Southwest Detroit, River Rouge, and Ecorse. Under her leadership, Tri-City CDC has implemented numerous community initiatives, including educational programs for children, job readiness training, and community mobilization efforts. Dr. Smith previously served as manager of Staff Employment for Michigan and vice president of Public Affairs & Community Reinvestment at Comerica Bank. She retired from Comerica after 47 years, then took up the operational reins at Tri-City CDC on the death of her husband, Rev. Dr. William J. Smith, the organization's founder. Now, instead of matching candidates with jobs, she began matching local nonprofits, schools, and community organizations with the resources they needed for local area and economic development. Dr. Loretta Smith has demonstrated her dedication to community development also by launching programs to mitigate the impact of toxic pollutants released by nearby industries, and by organizing the Eden Park Community Project to advocate for neighborhood revitalization. Moreover, she has been a champion for military veterans, organizing events and providing resources to honor and support them, and for voter education and engagement. Her work continues to enrich countless lives, and her legacy is lasting.



ESTHER WOODWARD

Esther Woodward is a mentor, speaker, and communicator who advocates and assists those in recovery from various forms of addiction. She is especially focused on women and LGBTQ+ people seeking to overcome addiction in the Ferndale, Troy, and Royal Oak area; and she tirelessly gives her time and energy to help them. She fills her already busy days as an active mentor and a facilitator of meetings open to all members of the recovery community. She goes many steps further by opening her home to small groups and individuals of marginalized populations who require direct support and assistance on their journey, and asks nothing in return. She continues to speak at conferences and rehabilitation facilities. She defines success after age 70 by her heartfelt actions and words each day, each step of the way, and by the success of the individuals she continues to help to recovery. Esther has never sought recognition for her critical role as a mentor or community leader, and indeed lives to be a champion and a voice for those who are all too often voiceless.

2024 AWARDEES CIVIC AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



LINDA C. ALLEN

Through her unwavering dedication to youth—in sports, education, and advocacy—Linda Allen, a 71-year-old beacon of hope and vitality, has shaped the future and inspired others to follow her lead. Her decades of selfless service have not only supported but transformed the lives of countless young individuals. She has been a cornerstone in her community's youth sports programs for more than thirty years, beginning as a volunteer coach for youth baseball and golf, quickly earning a reputation for her deep understanding of each game's skills, rules and physical demands, and for her ability to nurture talent and sportsmanship in her young athletes. Under her guidance, numerous players have developed into superior competitors and have gone on to success at higher levels, with many citing her mentorship as a pivotal influence in their lives. Linda is a former special education teacher, IT professional, Co-Chair of the Midnight Youth Golf Program, and a dedicated and active Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority member. She exudes the embodiment of grace, civility, and wisdom.



BRENDA CARTER

State Representative Brenda J. Carter is the first woman to represent Michigan House District 53. She is the fifth of 13 children of John H. Canty and Mary S. Wallace. She graduated from high school in Detroit and attended Michigan State University, Spring Arbor College, and Oakland University. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. Brenda currently is the chair and co-founder of the bi-cameral Poverty and Homelessness Caucus, chair of the House Insurance and Financial Services Committee, and vice chair of the House Labor Caucus. Her prior service includes eight years on the Pontiac School District Board of Education and various local and state leadership positions in the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Brenda co-founded the historic Million Woman March, a grassroots protest march for Black women in America in 1997. She currently serves on the board of directors or the executive committees of several organizations including the Michigan-Shiga Sister State Board of Directors; and is a member of several others, including the Council of Urban Boards of Education, National School Board Association, Oakland County School Board Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and New Mount Moriah International Church. She and her husband Randy Carter live in Pontiac.



BRONSON GENTRY, JR.

Bronson Gentry, Jr. is the bible study leader and master gardener at TobeMc Senior Daycare of Detroit. He is always well prepared for both of his responsibilities. He is kind, patient, extremely informative, and has the perfect demeanor to work with seniors. He developed and maintains the garden at TobeMc and teaches clients the science and joy of gardening, where to plant specific items, identifying plants that do not require a lot of water, and tolerating the many insects that are important to our gardens. He stresses composting, which makes gardening far more affordable. His tolerance and graciousness as a teacher are beyond praise. He also is an associate of the award-winning Oudolf Garden of native plants at Belle Isle, and leads clients of TobeMc on field trips there. And he relates gardening to scripture. His bible study is dynamic and interesting. His classes often concentrate on a book for many weeks because of the depth of discussion. All of Bronson Gentry's encounters with people are good for depression, anxiety and lifting spirits.



REGINA LAWSON

Affectionately known as "Mama Ravin," Regina Lawson has been volunteering and giving to the community for over 50 years. She is an ever-present supporter of many efforts that promote health and wellness, a plant-based diet, fitness, and herbal education. Mama Ravin leads "herbal walks and talks," "chat and chew" activities, and classes on herbalism and plant-based food preparation. She shares the medicinal wisdom of common plants and herbs often dismissed as weeds, and for this reason is known by some as the Weed Lady. Regina's kind of ministry is rare, especially in African American and underserved communities where the need is great and grassroots resources are few. It is imperative that we preserve and pass along traditions vital to our health and well-being, as well as those that address the health disparities that devastate our families and loved ones. Regina has volunteered for civic and community events for decades. She has worked with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and has been a regular volunteer at The Detroit Free Press Marathon Weekend, Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot, Vegan Fests and activities dedicated to health and wellness. It's worth noting that she celebrated her 75th birthday on May 19th, 2024. She is an inspiration to everyone around her.



FRANCES LEWIS

Frances Lewis has made and continues to make an impact in her field of education and in the community. She was born “in the heart of Detroit...a Black Bottom Knee Baby”—as she states in her memoir, *Frances Is...* (2024). Frances began her career in education as a lunchroom aide and then as a teacher’s assistant. She earned degrees in elementary and special education, then went to work as a teacher, shaping the lives of special needs children at a time when their inclusion in the classroom was not the norm. She also was the union representative at her school. Through her sorority and alumni organizations, Frances promoted quality higher education with a focus on women and other underserved students. Among much community and civic work, she served on her Citizen’s District Council, addressing residents’ quality-of-life issues, and engaged in election monitoring to ensure the integrity of the democratic process. She became an entrepreneur at age 45, owning and servicing several rental properties. In 2008 the periodical *Black Enterprise Journal* devoted a section to Frances, then aged 72, and her legacy of education, community service and civic engagement. Today, at 88, she continues to make strides in service to others.



DR. BETH GLOVER REED

Beth Glover Reed, University of Michigan Associate Professor Emerita of Social Work and Women’s and Gender Studies, has made extensive contributions to social justice and community engagement in our state. Her scholarly interests have centered on defining barriers to social justice and developing strategies to overcome them. Especially notable among her projects is the HOMES Coalition, which she began in her late 70s and completed in her 80s. HOMES is a community-based participatory research initiative aimed at identifying the housing and support system needs of the LGBTQ+ community. This project exemplifies her commitment to addressing the specific challenges faced by marginalized groups. Her research assessing state responses to congressional mandates for increasing services for women with AOD problems has led to improvements in program effectiveness and policy development. Dr. Reed has demonstrated an outstanding ability to secure funding for her work from numerous prestigious organizations. As an educator, she has developed innovative strategies to increase social justice practices among students and practitioners. She has mentored over 40 doctoral students across various disciplines. Beth Glover Reed’s innovative approaches, commitment to empowering marginalized communities, and lasting impact on academia and society exemplify the leadership spirit that this award seeks to recognize.



ALLEN M. SEDER

Allen M. Seder has been a very busy person for most of his life and an entrepreneur in the most complete sense of the word. He got his bachelor’s at Hillsdale College in 1975, then worked his way through Wayne State grad school in the food and beverage business. After his master’s he opened three flower shops, then moved to Toledo and, over the next 12 years, opened a nationally ranked comedy club, a high-end steak house, and two nightclubs. He sold those businesses in 1994 to return to Dearborn and care for his elderly parents. His next ventures were a concert production company promoting many top-line shows and comedians, and a semipro football team. To keep busy, he started coaching sports at his old high school and served seven years as an advisor and a member of the Hillsdale College Executive Alumni Association. Since turning 70, Allen continues coaching high school boys tennis and girls softball, and holds positions with the State Athletic Association. He currently is working on his thesis for a doctorate in Business Administration and serving the community in various organizations. He is president of the Westwood Education Foundation (Dearborn Heights). “I guess you could say I’m keeping busy.”



BEVERLY SMITH

Beverly Smith, a natural entrepreneur and activist, is the founder and publisher of Detroit Smart Pages, a bi-monthly complimentary business-to-business, business-to-community newspaper. A native of Lake Charles, Louisiana, she came with her family to Detroit at age 20 and began her career in enterprise. Beverly was part owner of the first African American owned MAACO auto painting and body shop franchise. She also owned a photography business for 25 years with numerous corporate clients. She started Detroit Smart Pages in 2006. Beverly has served as co-chair of Keep Michigan Beautiful since 2001, and was elected President in 2022. In 2015 she founded the Detroit Thank You Awards, which to date has honored over 250 long-time businesses. She has been recognized by the Women's Informal Network as one of Metro Detroit's most influential women. She was a 2012 Michigan Chronicle Women of Excellence honoree. In 2016 she received the Businesswoman of the Year award from the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Beverly is a member of the leadership committee of V Strong, which spreads information about the autoimmune skin pigmentation disorder Vitiligo. At age 76, Beverly Smith remains a true institution in the City of Detroit and beyond.



DEBORAH WHITE

Deborah White is a community advocate and all-around doer of good deeds. She works for food security and the end of food deserts in Detroit, and generally promotes volunteerism and healthy eating and living as civic priorities. She was born on July 27th, 1950, and raised in the city of Detroit. She is the oldest of three sisters and remains a warm and attentive caregiver for their older brother. Deborah's goal is to be part of the solution. She has collaborated over the last 40 years with local organizations like Eastside Community Network, Solidarity, Detroit Future City, Keep Growing Detroit, Jefferson Chalmers, Inc., and others to contribute to food sustainability and the revitalization of the City of Detroit. As Master Gardener at Klassic Mobile Gardens, she brings fresh, locally garden-grown, pesticide-free produce to residential and business customers. She spends immeasurable time in the gardens teaching children and other seniors how to grow and to can what they grow. Deborah also is an avid marathon runner. One of her favorites is the Detroit Free Press Marathon, which she prepares for by consuming the vegetables from her garden. She works without financial reward and with a smile on her face.



ORA WILLIAMS

Ora Williams, "The Consummate Social Worker" to many who know her, has devoted her life to serving others. She has been blessed and still does her best to give back. Age has not stopped her. Born and educated in Louisville, Kentucky, Ora studied at Eastern Kentucky University, then married and moved to Detroit in 1969. She retired in 2002 after 30 years of service as a social worker for the State of Michigan. In 2009 she organized the Grandparents Parenting Again & Kinship Care support group as an adjunct of the MOIST (Mothers of Inmates Support Team) program, after recognizing a gap in its support for grandparents assuming the responsibilities of incarcerated parents. Ora's Grandparents group is still viable and growing. Both the grandparents and the grandchildren they are raising benefit from her program. She actively seeks information that will be of help to them, while lobbying for state resources. In addition to degrees from Wayne County Community College and Oakland Community College, Ora has a certification in Grandfamilies leadership from the University of Maine Center on Aging. She serves on The Kinship Advisory Council, Grandparents Advisory Board through OSU, and the board of James E. Wadsworth Community Center.



2024 AWARDEES | ENTREPRENEURSHIP



KHADIJAH ALI

82-year-old Khadijah Ali is a lifelong entrepreneur, with more than 40 years in the hair care industry and many years after that as a fabric artist. She was born in the city of Detroit during the Great Depression and raised on the East Side with seven sisters and brothers. Khadijah had to learn how to be an adult at a young age. Later, as a wife and a mother of seven, Khadijah became a hairstylist and served hundreds of women over 40 years in her own salon in Killeen, Texas. She brought her business know-how to a different level as a seamstress and began to make and sell artwork that she calls “Diva Heads,” representing African and African American beauty culture. In her seventies, Khadijah began teaching her grandchildren how to sew and create outfits for the “Divas,” setting them on their own entrepreneurial path. Khadijah has impacted her family and friends by encouraging them to learn new skills and reach their dreams no matter their age. She has shown those much younger than she that skill and learning are not just for earning a living but for your whole life. Well after the age of 80, Khadijah still has the spunk of a 20-year-old.



DR. JANICE LOUISE CARDWELL

Dr. Janice Cardwell is chair of the board of the National Entrepreneur Association. She has conducted and presented research at several national and international entrepreneurship conferences, and is devoted to helping women leaders and entrepreneurs reach their full potential. She has served as vice president of the University of Phoenix-Detroit Campus for 14 years; as chair of the board of Matrix Human Services; and as chair of the International Leadership Association Leadership Development Community; as well as on the boards of several other non-profits. As CEO of Conceivers Leadership and Learning Group she demonstrates the competencies of a Scholar-Practitioner Leader (SPL). As a Scholar, she does not anchor herself to one way of solving a problem and will always look beyond the faults to see the needs. As a Practitioner, she believes that everyone has the potential to empower their excellence, and guides others to self-empowerment through leadership and learning. As a Leader, she brings 40 years of leadership experience across industry sectors to any position she holds. Jan is an artist specializing in 3-Dimension and AI-Influenced images. Since turning 70 she has expanded her business to include training videos. At age 72 she launched Conceivers Creatives Online Art Gallery.



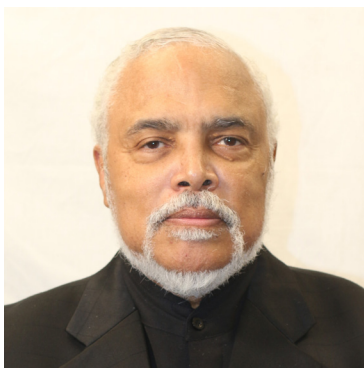
WISETTA DOLSEY

Known fondly as Ms. Manners, Wisetta Dolsey is the founder of Detroit’s Five Star School of Etiquette. Wisetta was raised in Detroit, where her parents instilled lessons of respect and community service. She is a proud graduate of the Detroit Public Schools. She earned her bachelor’s degree in social science from Mercy College and is certified as an etiquette consultant by the American School of Protocol in Atlanta, Georgia. Since she launched it in 2012, the Five Star School of Etiquette has trained families, youth, and adult professionals in etiquette and in understanding the important role the social graces play in a successful life. The five points of the school’s star represent the core tenets of etiquette: respect, consideration, kindness, inclusion, and service. Wisetta’s commitment to excellence and community impact is evident through her other interests and involvements. She served as an Emergency Services Manager for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and as a Housing Specialist for Neighborhood Legal Services. She supports and actively participates in numerous organizations including The Junior League of Detroit, Toastmasters, The Optimist Club, Save Our Youth and the Variety Organization. She still finds time for visiting the sick, gardening, reading, public speaking, and cooking. She is honored to be a wife, mother, and grandparent.



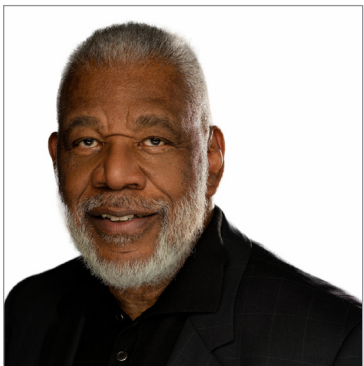
ACQUANETTA GLASS

Acquanetta Glass is president and CEO of Avance Communications, a firm she founded in 1996. Under her leadership, the agency has become synonymous with innovation, creativity, and excellence. It has spearheaded numerous national, regional, and local campaigns for prestigious clients such as McDonald's Corporation, Knight Foundation, the City of Detroit, and General Motors Corporation. Notably, it played a crucial role in coordinating events for Super Bowl XL Host Committee and the NFL, providing media relations activities for 3,000 international journalists. This achievement underscores Acquanetta's ability to manage high-profile projects with outstanding results. Acquanetta has been a trailblazer and an exceptional entrepreneur in marketing communications in a career spanning more than 45 years. She served as director of communications for two high-tech firms and as senior public relations specialist at General Motors Corporation. In 1990, she co-founded a public relations firm in Detroit, marking the beginning of her entrepreneurial journey. By 1996, she ventured independently to establish Avance Communications. Acquanetta is committed to diversity and inclusion, in her firm and in the services it provides clients striving for the widest audiences. Now in her 70s, she continues her dynamic leadership of this innovative and successful company with no intention of slowing down.



DARWIN GRIFFIN

Darwin Griffin's life is marked by dedication to community and exemplary leadership across various fields. Born and raised in Detroit and educated in the Detroit Public Schools, Darwin graduated from Cass Technical High School in the Chem-Bio Curriculum. He earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences at Michigan State University. Darwin established Griffin Trucking Company, which provided essential cartage and furniture delivery services throughout Michigan. Currently, he serves as: vice president of both the Detroit Downriver A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) and the State of Michigan APRI; second vice president of the Michigan Democratic Party Black Caucus; and board member of the Western Wayne County NAACP, Michigan State Conference NAACP, Southeast Michigan Jobs With Justice, and the 13th District Michigan Democratic Party. He is executive director of Changing Lives And Destinies (CLAD), which fosters positive change and provides critical support to those in need. His involvement with Building Black Brick Masters demonstrates his commitment to nurturing and empowering the next generation. He co-hosted and produced the Lavonia Perryman Show on Radio 910AM for seven years, and has maintained his media presence for the past twelve years on WHPR-TV 33 with "Xpose Under the Sun." Beyond his professional accomplishments, Darwin deeply cherishes his role as father and grandfather.



JOHN N. HENDERSON

John N. Henderson is a supply chain services and solutions executive. He is president of AEL-Span, LLC; executive vice president, Corporate Development & Strategic Relationships, of Walker SCM, LLC; and visiting executive, Consulting and Business Development Center, University of Washington. John has dedicated his talent and learning to the promotion of excellence and productivity in business, and strives to pass this legacy of knowledge and wisdom to the next generation of entrepreneurs and dealmakers. John has a bachelor's degree plus an MBA in Economics and Corporate Finance from the University of Washington. He also is a graduate of the Stonier School of Banking (now part of the Wharton School). He has taught Finance at the University of Phoenix's Troy campus and is a lead instructor at the Joseph Business School in Detroit. He served in the United States Marines. At age 71 he was appointed to the Ascension Providence Hospital Foundation Board. At age 74 he completed the M&A and Corporate Development Strategies program at the Wharton School, and was inducted into the 2024 Smart Business Dealmaker's Hall of Fame. John N. Henderson is living proof that professionalism, excellence and contributions to the success of others is not limited to any age.



DR. ADRIENNE BOOTH JOHNSON

Dr. Adrienne Booth Johnson has enjoyed a distinguished career as an entrepreneur, business strategist, and motivational speaker. She is a graduate of the University of Louisville School of Business and has earned Theology Program certification from Interdenominational Theological Center. She has completed the Satcher Health Leadership Institute program at Morehouse College School of Medicine. As the Coca-Cola Company's Multicultural Brand Manager for 11 years, she notably developed and executed the Open Happiness Tour to South Africa for Historically Black College and University (HBCU) students. She launched her first retail business, Adrienne's Fine Resale Boutique, capitalizing on market opportunities in Atlanta's Buckhead area. She works with organizations and people around the world as CEO of Detroit-based Infinity Global Connections, LLC, and president of Infinity Global Empowerment. These companies focus on empowering individuals and groups through public relations, brand strategy, content development, and experiential marketing. She developed the Wo Ye Bra women's empowerment program in Ghana and Sierra Leone, starting 350 women entrepreneurs in manufacturing and marketing. Dr. Johnson has received international honors for her contributions to business and economic empowerment. Her innovative programs and mentorship have transformed the lives of countless women and youth, fostering economic independence and sustainable development. Her husband, Rev. Attorney Joe Johnson, is also a 70 Over Seventy honoree this year.



DENNIS KING

When it comes to entrepreneurship, Dennis Michael King is a late but full bloomer. At age 67, anticipating a well-earned retirement after 45 years as a practicing architect, Dennis decided to pivot and start something new. In 2013, he launched DMKING Consulting LLC, a management counseling, strategic planning and leadership development firm. Proven and award-winning, Dennis had spent nearly his entire professional career with Harley Ellis Devereaux (HED), now one of the country's largest architecture, engineering and planning firms, ultimately serving for 20 years as its chairman and CEO. During his tenure at HED, he had grown the organization from a single office in Michigan to nine offices in six states. His current venture, DMKING Consulting, to date has been retained by more than 30 companies and organizations, both large and small, in the architecture, engineering, design and construction industries, plus professional associations including the Michigan Architectural Foundation, the Construction Association of Michigan, the Oakland County Economic Development Corporation, and the Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. All benefit from Dennis's industry-leading expertise. Neither DMKING Consulting, after more than a decade in business, nor Dennis Michael King, at 78 years young, shows any signs of slowing down.



LENNETTE MARTIN

Elder Lennette Martin is an entrepreneur, pastor, youth leader, mother and humanitarian, and an inspiration to all who know her. She and her husband have served the community by pastoring a church, organizing outreach services, and more. Today, she feeds and teaches young neighbors in her own home while also leading the youth organization at her new church. At 70 years old, she walks throughout the community, assisting elderly people up to age 94, feeding and assisting their daily needs. She mentors young women and helps them to maintain their households. And so much more. She's never been heard to complain about her age or any problem she may be experiencing in her own life. She's devoted it entirely to loving those in need with her time, resources, and effort.



RABBI ALON TOLWIN

Rabbi Alon Tolwin grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is the founder of Aish Detroit, an innovative organization committed to strengthening the Jewish Family by providing programming that is meaningful, experiential and relevant. Many of its programs, like Our Mom’s Mission and The Man’s Seder, have been replicated worldwide, and have impacted thousands of families here in Detroit and across America. Rabbi Tolwin also is the star, with financial planner Gary Rosenberg, of “A Rabbi and a Skeptic Walk Into a Podcast.” It is a lively improvised weekly philosophical and practical discussion that illuminates topics of wide interest. The podcast is in its second season and gaining momentum, with more than 40 episodes and hundreds of listeners. For decades previously, Tolwin hosted a weekly lunch-and-learn program at the Detroit Jewish News, and held class in people’s homes, based on his conviction that it’s never too late for adults to learn the Torah. He makes air quotes when he speaks of his recent retirement. He says, “I retired the moment I started working, because I love every minute of it.” If he were to teach one skill, one virtue, it would be to wake up every morning with a grateful heart.

2024 AWARDEES | LIFELONG LEARNING



DR. PATRICIA WENDOLYN COLEMAN-BURNS

Dr. Pat or PCB, as friends call her, has always been a thoughtful, kind, and intelligent leader. Her ability to stand a little taller, see a little farther, and do a little more has been the source of her own lifelong personal growth. In 1991, Dr. Pat joined the University of Michigan School of Nursing and was appointed director of its Office of Multicultural Affairs. Among her considerable contributions to the School’s teaching mission are the GENESIS Project (1997) to increase the number of Persons Underrepresented in Nursing (PUNs); her research into cultural competence among African American health professionals and the impact of racial identity on implicit biases and the need for culturally competent care; and her leadership, a few years prior to her own retirement in 2016, of the School’s Second Career Program. Decades before these accomplishments, however, Dr. Pat was simply a recent Wayne State grad working in the front office at Motown. She returned to WSU and progressed through various teaching and administrative positions, then moved to U-M. Since 2016 she is “Professor Emerita” but remains active in the university as an advisor and developer of curriculum. She is an elder and pastor of First AME Church of Farmington Hills, continuing the vision of its founder, her late husband, Rev. John H. Burns, and is still a sister of Delta Sigma Theta.



CAROLYN HALL

Carolyn Hall epitomizes the lifelong learner through her extraordinary journey in pursuit of education. While working as a clerk-typist for the IRS, she diversified her skill set by getting certified as an inline-skate instructor, and she started a greeting card business. In 2012, at age 63, 45 years after high school, Carolyn enrolled at Wayne County Community College, beginning an educational odyssey. She was driven not by external pressures or professional requirements but solely by an intrinsic desire to expand her knowledge and intellectual horizons. She earned her associate’s degree through grit and perseverance, laying the foundation for higher academic achievements. Answering her thirst for knowledge and credentials, Carolyn worked for and earned both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree at Wayne State University. Each milestone stood as a marker of her commitment and success in attaining personal growth against all odds, norms, and expectations. But Carolyn’s journey did not end there. Instead, she went on to pursue her doctoral degree, at Kansas State University. She is on track to reach this goal in 2026. Far from the isolated academic, Carolyn Hall has the ability to project her enthusiasm for the possibilities of self-reinvention and lifelong learning into her conversation with everyone she meets.



TERRELL HILL

After retiring, Terrell Hill discovered a new chapter in his life through the lens of a camera. With the eye for detail he had developed as a senior designer at General Motors, Terrell began capturing cherished moments at weddings, school and family reunions, and special events; and what started as a simple hobby quickly blossomed into a thriving business. He found his ideal occupation late in life and is a prime example of how people can flourish at any age. Terrell's journey began long before retirement with a simple gift from his mother—a Kodak camera. The early realization that he could capture on film what others only remember imperfectly laid the foundation for his creative life. In his senior designer role at GM, he transformed the engineers' technical vision into precision drawings. This experience nurtured his artistic talents and proved priceless to him as a photographer. Largely self-taught, Terrell is resolutely dedicated to learning. He believes that "if I'm not learning, then why am I doing it?" He took in-person classes, found a mentor to coach him in mastering photo editing software, and uses online resources like KelbyOne and YouTube. He's most proud of exhibiting his work at Hannan Center's Kayrod Gallery in 2023. Terrell exemplifies the spirit of lifelong learning and artistic exploration.



CHRISTOPHER HOOD

Christopher Hood, born in Detroit in 1949, is admired for his willingness and diligence to dig deep, within the lines of Detroit's history, to dispel any of the doubts of Detroiters about the prolonged, attempted murder of their great and complex city. Christopher's *Killing Detroit: The City That Refused to Die* (The Book Publishing Solutions, 2023) presents this meticulous research in a story that is part memoir, part crime mystery. A project conceived and tackled by Christopher in his mid-70s, the book has been recognized, nationally and internationally, as an achievement that will bring eager and lasting attention to Detroit's true recent past. As an advocate for change that improves people's lives, Christopher previously spent 16 years helping develop technology to enhance the safety of police officers and citizens. This latest effort is the result of that learning, and shows that age has not stopped his passion for his community or his personal development.



VIRGINIA HOSBACH

At age 75, Ginny Hosbach, RN, MSN, demonstrates the heart of a lifelong learner. Despite her long clinical nursing career and experience as a nurse educator, she continually seeks out new knowledge and skills. Ginny regularly completes continuing education courses, attends workshops and conferences, and participates in professional development opportunities to keep current on changes in nursing and health care. Lately she has been an integral part of a team at Practice Transformation Institute (PTI) that develops, implements, and delivers community health worker (CHW) education. Within this program, Ginny teaches or co-teaches several sessions, including those on communication, public health and health literacy, chronic health conditions, and behavioral health and substance use disorders. Recently she was called upon to lead two sessions of the CHW program due to the loss of a staff member. The sessions involved new content. Ginny did complete research and was able to deliver the information in more than required detail, resulting in superior sessions. The impact she has on learners because of her knowledge, teaching style, and enthusiasm for learning is shown in their consistently positive evaluations of the courses and sessions she teaches. Ginny Hosbach is an enthusiastic example of and advocate for continuing education.



BENNIE LATIMER

Bennie Latimer has not only demonstrated a lively curiosity and willingness to study new subjects; she also has a serious involvement with the popular, inspirational subject of genealogy. Bennie was born in 1942 and grew up to be an educator, teaching science in the Detroit Public Schools. In 1977, at age 35, she was inspired by Alex Haley to begin research into her own family history. She has continued until today to learn about both sides of her family. She's tracked down records in Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas dating back to the 1700's. Along the way, she has joined the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution; First Families of the Twin Territories (Oklahoma and Indian Territory); National Society United States Daughters of 1812; Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War; National Society Daughters of Union Veterans 1861-1865; and Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars. Bennie also is a registered member of the Cherokee Nation, having determined that several of her ancestors were enrolled as Cherokee Freedmen in the late 1800s. At age 82, Bennie continues to be active in genealogy research as a consultant to genealogical and historical societies here and in other states.



INEZ MARTIN

Inez Martin's personal growth is a result of her having served her community for more than 40 years. She was a social worker for over 30 years. She was the first African American to receive the highest scholastic award from the University of Detroit Dental Assistant College, in 1962. Inez was the first of two African Americans to integrate United Airlines in Detroit, the first to integrate an all-white bank—Bank of the Commonwealth, Eastern Market Branch. She is the first person to have a scholarship award given in her name at Marygrove College—The Inez Martin Humanitarian Scholarship Award—by the National Association of Black Social Workers. Her proudest moment was learning that the first winner was an African American student. "Each one, teach one." Inez was the second African American to integrate Sears Customer Service Department at Gratiot and Van Dyke. She has served as program director in charge of interviewing speakers for the National Caucus of Black Aged (NCBA), Detroit Chapter. She is currently a member of N'COBRA, NAACP, NCBA, and NCBSW. Inez Martin is a pioneer within the women's movement and women's history. She is a trailblazer in African American history. She has learned and grown every step of the way.



DR. JORGE PRÓSPERI

Dr. Jorge Prósperi is valued for his lifelong dedication as an educator and personal mentor. He also is eager to continue learning and welcomes the insights of everyone with whom he interacts. Jorge Dante Hernández Prósperi was born in Argentina in 1944. Today he is retired from 45 years in education, having served as a public and independent school Spanish advanced placement/international baccalaureate teacher, middle school principal, admissions director and college adjunct to the Wayne State University School of Education and Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (LAS). At age 63 he earned a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from WSU, and has experienced immeasurable professional and personal growth through the Harvard Principals' Center Summer Institute. He is the recipient of numerous awards in the field of education. Even now at age 80, Dr. Prósperi continues to lecture, blog and podcast on all aspects of diversity, equity and inclusion and the critical need for them in our culture. He has accomplished much of this by founding the website Diversity-Threads.com and Counter Voices Podcast. Upon his retirement he authored *Trenzas~Braids – Immigrant Voices of Resiliency and Hope*, a book of poetics and personal poems in Spanish and English.



MARIAN CAMILLE STEPHENS

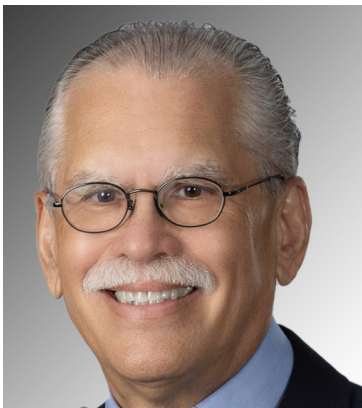
Marian Stephens, past president of the Detroit Art Teachers Association, retired in 1997 after an illustrious 41-year career as an award-winning art teacher with the Detroit Public Schools. Marian was born and raised on the West Side, educated in the DPS, and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in art education at Wayne State University. She taught drawing, painting, jewelry, crafts, lettering and poster design, ceramics, fashion, illustration, printmaking, art composition, freehand drawing, art appreciation and art history, principally in high school, her "sweet spot." In the 1950s, she was invited to join Arts Extended Group, which would later become a gallery providing exhibit space to artists of color. Her brother is the artist Richard Kinney. Her students included fashion designers Tracy Reese, Jeffery Grey, A. Nzere Kwabena, Narvi Hambrick, Mattel toy designer Edward Duncan, Nickelodeon executive Roland Poindexter, industrial designer Robert Anderson, horticulture designer Edward Cummings, art conservator LaVeta Walton-Rice, product designer Michele Varian, artist/academician Christopher Batten, and construction/restoration artist Martin Soo Hoo. Today, Marian is a working artist who has shown at the Hannan Center and other major galleries. She leads an architectural project with elementary and high school students. She also teaches art education and supervises student teachers at Wayne State. A lifetime of learning flows through Marian Stevens!



MARY JO TUCKER

Mary Jo Tucker is an enthusiastic, active business owner of her own recruiting agency. She has supplied high profile candidates for a major defense contractor for more than 18 years. Her professionalism has been essential to providing well qualified candidates to fill these vital positions. She has an outstanding rapport with both clients and candidates. They enjoy working with her. She does not permit age to affect her drive for excellence. Mary is a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She is valuable mentor and support for her family and friends. She enjoys helping others solve problems. Her compassion is well known by all who knows her. She gives help spiritually, mentally and financially. She loves making people happy.

2024 AWARDEES | LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



HARVEY W. BERMAN, ESQ.

Harvey Berman, ESQ. has been a successful and honored construction attorney for over 45 years with Detroit business law firm Bodman PLC. He founded and chairs the firm's Construction Practice Group, working closely with eight attorneys who handle construction matters. His papers appear routinely in the ABA Forum on the Construction Industry, Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), The Business Review, and others. Yet despite his busy legal practice, Harvey has, for decades, dedicated himself to veterans and their families, rebuilding inner city neighborhoods, and inspiring younger generations. He is most proud of his work as legal counsel and secretary of the board of directors of Fisher House Michigan, which provides a "home away from home" for families of Veterans and active-duty military receiving care at the VA Medical Centers in Ann Arbor and Detroit. Since 1998 he has been a board member of the Ann Arbor Student Building Industry Program, which teaches high school students the various skills involved in home construction, and life skills including teamwork, organization, and time management. He personally helps the team acquire and develop property, and administer programs and operations. And he was an early advocate and pro bono advisor for Life Remodeled, focused on revitalizing Detroit neighborhoods through citywide clean-up projects and repurposing vacant buildings. At age 74, Harvey continues to maintain a busy law practice, mentor young construction lawyers, and energize those around him to do more.



WAYNE BROWN

Wayne S. Brown has had a long history of serving the arts, most recently as president and CEO of Detroit Opera from 2014 to 2024. Wayne grew up in Detroit and graduated from the University of Michigan. Prior to his Detroit Opera tenure, Wayne was with the National Endowment for the Arts beginning in 1997, where he managed NEA grants for music and opera projects and directed the NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships, the nation's highest honor in jazz; he was producer of music programs the Cultural Olympiad in Atlanta, Georgia; and, for many years, symphony orchestras in Louisville, Kentucky, Springfield, Massachusetts, and Detroit, where in 1979 he was instrumental in bringing about the first Classical Roots Concerts. He also has served as a member of the Mellon and Ford Foundations, and is former vice chairman of the American Symphony League and a board member of the American Arts Alliance. After turning 70, Wayne continued to helm Detroit Opera, steering the organization through the COVID Crisis. He oversaw successful searches for the company's artistic director, Yuval Sharon, and music director, Roberto Kalb. In 2023 he supervised the selection of his successor, Patty Isacson Sabee.



CLLR. THERETHA DIXON

Minister Theretha Dixon has devoted many years as a volunteer, organizer, and strategic collaborator in pursuit of housing justice and food security for vulnerable Detroit households. Minister Dixon is the founding Volunteer Coordinator for the Brightmoor Connection Client Choice Pantry which serves her own Brightmoor community in northwest Detroit. Under her leadership, the pantry is operated by a crew of neighborhood volunteers, many of whom are themselves clients of the pantry. This unique volunteer-led and client-driven service model is shared among 1,700 member households. Minister Dixon has helped train and build the skills of these base members not only to bring better food access to families but also to canvass and mobilize neighbors and engage with public officials to secure funding for the Detroit Affordable Housing Trust Fund (DAHTF). The DAHTF is dedicated to providing affordable and accessible housing for low-income individuals and families like those who attend the client choice pantry. Since the 2010s, Minister Dixon has coordinated her organization's work with that of Detroit People's Platform (DPP), a racial justice organizing group in Detroit. DPP focuses on food insecurity in households with children where food budgets are often strained by other necessities like rent, utilities and transportation. Minister Dixon's work is a model of community engagement and advances the well-being of all Detroiters.



DR. GLORIA HOUSE

Poet, scholar and activist Gloria House, revered throughout the community as Mama Aneb, has stood in the gap for human rights and social justice for decades. Born in Tampa, Florida, in 1941, she wrote her first poems in primary school. She was a student at UC Berkeley during the Black Arts and Black Consciousness movements of the 1960s and 70s. While teaching in a freedom school in Selma, Alabama, she worked as a field secretary in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She drafted SNCC's statement against the Vietnam War, the first public opposition to the war by a civil rights organization. Years later, in 2004, Dr. House brought together the work of six essential American poets of that era as lead editor of *A Different Image: The Legacy of Broadside Press* (Broadside Press and the University of Detroit Mercy Press). Always vigilant as an activist, Dr. House co-founded the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality in 1996. Active with Broadside Press since the 70s, she saw her first collections of poetry published there, including *Blood River* (1983), *Rain Rituals* (1989), as well as her latest book *Medicine* (2017). Third World Press printed her third poetry collection, *Shrines*, in 2003. All her poetry is published under her professional name, Aneb Kgositsile. At age 78 she was named the 2019 Kresge Eminent Artist. Dr. Gloria House is an associate professor in the College of Life-Long Learning at Wayne State University. She remains active in local efforts to end water shutoffs and in the Detroit Independent Freedom Schools Movement.



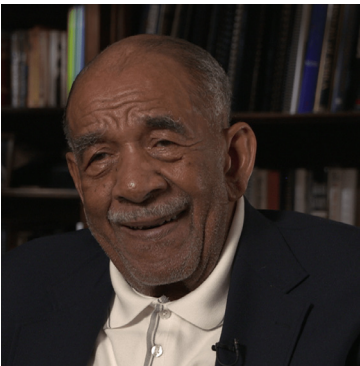
JACKIE KALLEN

Jackie Kallen, born Jackie Kaplan in 1946 in Detroit, is pro boxing's first and most successful female manager. A Detroit show-business journalist in the 1970s, Jackie interviewed the Rolling Stones, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and others. In 1977 she was assigned to interview a boxing prospect from the Kronk gym, Thomas Hearns. She became fascinated with boxing and began specializing as a journalist in the sport. Jackie spent a decade as Hearns's publicist. Her experience led her to manage him as well as other boxers including James Toney and Bronco McKart. Since then, Jackie Kallen has been considered a major player in the sport, due to her lengthy and successful management of athletes and her connection with promoters. She has been a frequent television guest and has been covered by the major U.S. dailies and magazines. She has numerous awards and is honored in several boxing and sports halls of fame, including the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Jackie is the author of two books, *Hit Me With Your Best Shot* and *Between the Ropes*. She is also the subject of Peter Mann's book *Against the Odds: The Jackie Story*. In 2004 Paramount Pictures produced a fictionalized account of her life, *Against the Ropes*, starring Meg Ryan and Omar Epps. Roger Ebert gave it 3 of 4 stars. At age 78, Jackie Kallen actively manages three Detroit pro boxers and exhibits the same stamina and classy style that made her "The First Lady of Boxing."



DR. WALTER ROBERT MCLEAN

Dr. Walter McLean, Ed.D., has a favorite saying: "God gave us all the gift of intelligence, and the free will to choose to use it." He enjoyed a long career with the Detroit Public Schools as a music educator and principal. When in public, he is often recognized and approached by a former student who quotes that saying back to him. For his friends, these encounters are the sign of an individual who knows the value of learning, through formal education as well as the lessons learned through living a purpose-filled life. Walter moved to Detroit in the late 1960s, after graduating with a double major in French and music from North Carolina Central University. While with DPS he attained his Doctor of Education degree in leadership and curriculum. His career in education spanned elementary through high school positions, and he retired from the system in 2001 as an Executive Director/Superintendent. Today, at age 78, he continues to provide educational consultant services to schools and school districts, staying committed to young people. Walter also serves as the Dean of Worship Arts of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit. He is a member of the National Association of Negro Musicians where he currently serves as vice-president and scholarship chair.



PROF. WILLIS C. PATTERSON

Dr. Willis Charles Patterson, age 93, emeritus professor and associate dean of The University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance, has broken ground in American music all his adult life. Born in Ann Arbor in 1930, Willis graduated from U-M and Wayne State University, then pursued instruction in opera and lieder in Germany as a Fulbright Fellow. He completed his vocal training in New York and appeared in bass-baritone roles in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Porgy & Bess*, *Fidelio*, and *La Bohème*. He turned his career to teaching and, in 1968, was the first African American to join the faculty of the U-M School of Music, Theatre and Dance (SMTD). From 1969 to 1975 he was music director of the U-M Men's Glee Club. He then was appointed chair of the Department of Voice, and, in 1979, associate dean for Undergraduate Studies and Minority Affairs, a post he held with distinction until retiring in 1999. By the late 1990s, the SMTD has significantly increased its diversity, boasting the greatest number of postgraduate students of color in America. Willis published two anthologies of art songs by African American composers, leading to a surge of national interest in Black composers of serious song literature. The repertoire he assembled is now the basis for study in other music schools, and part of the canon required for graduation from the SMTD. Dean Patterson is past president of the National Association of Negro Musicians, past executive secretary of the National Black Music Caucus, and past president of VIDEMUS, a nonprofit committed to producing the concert music of African American composers. His organization, "Our Own Thing Chorale," has provided free music lessons for promising Ann Arbor youth for over 50 years.



RALPH TAYLOR

Ralph Taylor has been costume-maker to the City of Detroit for over 50 years, and continues to thrill us today with his unique designs in parades, fashion shows, art installations, and other events across the region. People who wore one of his pieces as kids have grown up to see their own children in a Taylor outfit or headdress. In the early 1970s Ralph Taylor moved here from his native Trinidad where, at a very young age, he learned from his family the art of making costumes for Carnival. He came to Detroit to pursue a welding career but kept up his passion for Carnival costume design and production. His works are mobile sculptures that come alive when someone wears them. They're fashioned at Ralph's studio, Caribbean Mardi Gras Productions, and involve wire sculpture, flexible materials such as fiber glass rods and aluminum sheeting, and vividly colorful fabrics. They stand anywhere from four to fifteen feet high. Ralph has commissions for Mardi Gras parades throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean, and has won numerous awards. His most recent work here has been for Marche du Nain Rouge, Eastern Market After Dark, Light up Livernois, and DLECTRICITY. Since turning 70 in 2012, he has continued his work as a welder and artist, with neighborhood children as helpers and students. In 2016 he was awarded a Kresge Artist Fellowship, acknowledging his place as a preeminent Detroit artist. Now 82, Ralph Taylor shows no sign of letting down.



HILDA VEST

Hilda Freeman Vest is a Renaissance woman. She is a retired educator, having worked in the Detroit Public Schools for many years. She is an excellent fiber artist, specializing in hand quilted decorative pieces, and an active community quilter at the age of 91. She remains a faithful collector of squares for the project, which is supported by AARP, Bedrock, and the Carr Center. Hilda is an accomplished and widely read poet and memoirist. She and her husband the auto executive Donald Vest (1930-2015) took over Broadside Press (now Broadside Lotus Press) in 1985 from their friend Dudley Randall, the first Poet Laureate of Detroit. Several of her books are published by Broadside, including the poetry collection *Sorrow's End* (1993), *Reflections: an Oral History of Detroit* (with Irene Rosemonde, 1992), and *Home House: Memoir of a Southern Childhood* (2020). Her work appears in the anthologies *Connecting the Dots: Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project* (Painted Turtle Press, 2007) and *Abandon Automobile: Detroit City Poetry 2001* (Great Lakes Books, 2001). She is the mother of three children and many grandchildren. She has an "incredible" sense of humor; she's funny and fun loving. She's an all-around beautiful person.



URSULA WALKER

Ursula Walker has been a mainstay in the Detroit music world for over six decades, from age 11. Her influence on the Detroit jazz scene is profound and multifaceted, marked by longevity, mentorship, cultural impact, and grateful recognition. She has recorded extensively and performed at clubs, concerts and festivals, frequently appearing at the Detroit International Jazz Festival, where she has opened for jazz legends like Dizzy Gillespie and Oscar Peterson, and soloing with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. She has mentored other, now established Detroit jazz musicians, as well as the winning vocalists of the Jazz Festival's Diva Competition. Her involvement extends to community outreach, where she leads concerts to raise funds for multiple myeloma research. She is featured in exhibits like "Detroit Jazz: A Legacy Continues" at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Her numerous other recognitions include induction into the Metro Times Jazz Hall of Fame and Midwest Arts Legends of Jazz Hall of Fame, Southern Christian Leadership Conference Aretha Franklin Award for outstanding achievement in the Performing Arts, Detroit's Outstanding Jazz Vocalist in 2000, 2004, and 2011, the 2012 Detroit Black Music Lifetime Achievement Award, and a Clio for best vocal performance in a commercial. Since turning 70, Ursula has been awarded the 2024 Kresge Artist Fellowship Award. She continues to perform throughout Detroit with her husband, the pianist and composer Buddy Budson (also a 70 Over Seventy honoree this year).

2024 AWARDEES | UNSUNG HERO



ADRIENNE D. ADAMS

Adrienne Adams is an unsung hero for many reasons but especially one: she is utterly devoted to weaving her considerable talents into the fabric of Presbyterian life. For about 60 years she has been an involved member of Calvary Presbyterian Church Detroit. In 1974, as a 22-year-old educator with the Detroit Public Schools, she became committed to developing the youth of the Calvary community. She took them on retreats, camping, mission trips, conferences, conventions, and Black college tours. Adrienne worked her way up through the teaching ranks to the administrative position of DPS Curriculum Coordinator. Prior to her retirement in 2019, she developed best-practices strategies and classroom teaching methods that help teachers teach to the needs of 21st century students. But she never lost focus of her primary mission: to create ways for youth and adults to participate fully in Presbyterian church life. To this end, she became an Ordained Deacon, an Ordained Elder, served as the Clerk of Session, and has chaired many local, state, and national committees. At age 72 today, despite the challenges of painful chronic illness, Adrienne continues to perform her very substantial ministry within the Presbyterian organization—so substantial, in fact, especially as concerns youth, that the Michigan Black Presbyterian Youth Caucus has established the endowed Adrienne Adams Scholarship in her honor.



SABIHA ASHRAF

Sabiha Ashraf has truly been a hero to many—to her daughter through many challenges, to artists as a writer and art lover, and to many others whom she has helped emotionally and financially. Growing up in a South Asian family whose resources were strained by the severe chronic illness of one of her sisters, Sabiha had to go the extra mile to get the education she craved. Her love of reading and English was immense; so she taught herself at home and later sat for and passed the exams, winning the opportunity in 1962 to come to the U.S. as an exchange student. Following her sister’s death she emigrated to the States with her family. She completed college, then worked in journalism, writing extensively on art and artists. Many she profiled went on to notable careers. This played a big role in her daughter’s becoming an artist. She’s always had a big heart. She advocated with her social network to get employment for underprivileged youth. When she hadn’t the means to help people monetarily, she collected from others. These efforts helped needy families and individuals purchase their own homes. For her daughter she has been an angel. When her daughter had young kids, she came from another state to stay and help raise them over seven crucial years. And when her daughter was fighting cancer, she moved to Michigan permanently to be her companion and caregiver. She has found joy in a life of service but never has been recognized for what she has done.



JOSEPHINE HENRY GENTRY-SMITH HUYGHE (posthumous)

Up until her death on Mar 16, 2024, at age 97, Josephine Gentry Huyghe made an impact on her community in the areas of diversity and inclusion in sports, civil rights, and “healthy aging with elegance” of older adults. As an aging older person herself, Josie knew that exercise and the practical things you can do to retain health and fitness are essential to a good quality of life. She continually recreated herself through personal growth. She was very active throughout her life, especially in dance and athletics, setting an example for all generations. She contributed her talent and energy to others with vigor and cheerfulness, and little recognition. Josephine Genty Huyghe was born in 1926 and raised on Detroit’s east side. She attended Southeastern High School. During the de facto segregation of the era Black students were not allowed to play most sports and weren’t wanted in most sports venues. Josie became an avid and accomplished athlete anyway. Josie had a career as a nurse in the field of public health. She was a proponent for civil rights, Black awareness and culture, and a diligent historian of Detroit and African Americans in Detroit. She won the title of Ms. Senior Michigan, the first African American so honored. And she went on to become Ms. Senior America in 1989, also the first African American to hold the title.



REV. JOE JOHNSON, ESQ.

In April 2024, Rev. Attorney Joe Johnson and his wife, Dr. Adrienne Booth Johnson (also a 70 Over Seventy honoree this year), were honored by the Republic of Ghana’s Ambassador to the U.S., Hajia Alima Mahama, for creating and empowering hundreds of women entrepreneurs in that country. The award was presented at the first Ghana Global Business Summit in Detroit. It was a rare moment of limelight and applause in the otherwise modest, steady, self-effacing life of Joe Johnson. Something like it had happened in March 1974, when the Detroit native was a University of Michigan basketball star and his team had just won the Big Ten championship. He filled the 50 years between those two dates with broad professional accomplishment, enlightened leadership, profound benefit to others, and consistent deflection of the praise he deserved. After U-M, Joe earned his JD at Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, and practiced in law firms, public advocacy, private practice, and as a litigation counsel for The Coca-Cola Company. He also taught as a university adjunct professor and lecturer, and became an ordained minister. A talented novelist, he wrote the thriller *Joshua’s Battle* (Archway, 2014). On leaving Coca-Cola he was named president and general counsel of Infinity Global Connections, a Detroit global marketing company, and CEO of its nonprofit subsidiary Infinity Global Empowerment, which uplifted those ordinary women in Ghana and transforms the lives of other struggling people worldwide. He and Adrienne live in Boston-Edison. At age 71, Joe Johnson is retired on paper but continues his quiet way of making waves from still waters.



MARY JONES

Mary C. Jones is affectionately known as “Baby Love” or “Sweetie” throughout Michigan. She is a beacon of faith, love, and service, and has had a profound and far-reaching impact on her community. Professionally, Mary dedicated years of tireless service to the University of Michigan Hospital, where she worked until her retirement. Her commitment to excellence and her caring nature were a blessing to patients and an inspiration to colleagues. Married for 52 years to Pastor William F. Jones, Sr., she is the proud mother of seven children, grandmother of 24, and great-grandmother of 12. She represents love, strength, unity and support to her large family and beyond. Mary currently serves on the board of directors for Operation Refuge, which provides essential services, including emergency food assistance, science education and youth development programs, to Inkster and the surrounding areas. In her role as administrative lead at Mother’s Pantry, she greets each person who enters with her signature phrase, “Good Morning, Baby Love,” setting a tone of dignity and compassion. She is involved in various community initiatives beyond Operation Refuge, and her faith and service touch countless lives across Michigan. All of Mary’s efforts are carried out quietly and humbly. Even in retirement, her life is a testament to dedication and compassion.



JACKIE LAMBERT

For the past 53 years, Jackie Lambert has been a pillar of Detroit’s Church of the Messiah and part of the “glue” that sustains that community and moves it forward. Throughout her life, Jackie has used her talents and skills to support others and improve her community. But, instead of dividing her time among a variety of volunteer opportunities, she has given her all to Church of the Messiah. Jackie was born in 1949 in Belize to a farm labor family. As a child she worked in the fields and sewed garments. When she was 21, she came with her family to the United States to find employment and a better life. In Houston, she met Reverend Ron Spann, then pastor of Church of the Messiah, who had traveled there to study church-based community building, communal family living and wealth sharing. Inspired by the same ideas, she moved to Detroit in 1973 and joined the Church of the Messiah community. Jackie had a household to maintain, and earned her living initially within the community, in the daycare center, church school, and church. Eventually she earned a B.S. in Health Administration at the University of Detroit Mercy and went to work at the Detroit Medical Center until 2021, all the while continuing her life of quiet service at Church of the Messiah. At age 75, Jackie still launders the altar cloths and bakes the Eucharist bread for the Sunday services. She considers Church of the Messiah her family and does not call attention to herself or to her work. In return, she is beloved and much respected by the whole community.



XUEMO LU

After a distinguished career in OB-GYN medicine in China, Xuemo Lu moved to the United States in 2008 to care for her grandson. In her home country, over four decades, she had delivered thousands of babies and provided critical care to women experiencing high-risk pregnancies. Her ability to handle complex medical situations with skill and empathy had saved many lives and earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues and patients alike. Her work had not only contributed to the well-being of individual patients but also to the overall advancement of women's healthcare in her community. While it was hard to leave the career she loved, she quickly found the Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) here and has channeled her passion and energy into countless hours of volunteer work with the organization. She uses her skills in gardening, sewing, and cooking to support various community activities. She helps her fellow seniors by altering their clothes and assisting with the weeding at ACA's Healthy Vegetable Garden. She made of her most remarkable contributions this past May as fundraising champion for the ACA Senior Care Shuttle campaign. She donated her homegrown garlic chives, meticulously picking, cleaning, and hand wrapping each bunch. Her dedication and spirit inspired many, and the campaign exceeded its goal by 60%. At age 82, Xuemo Lu is a testament to the profound difference one individual can make in the lives of many.



MARY MARINELLI

Mary Marinelli, RN, is a hospice care nurse, still working at age 70, still giving ease and peace to patients in transition and strength and comfort to their families. Mary has volunteered and worked at caring for others in nursing homes, hospitals, home care and hospice for over 50 years, starting as a teenager. She goes over and above; at times spending her own money for items her patients cannot afford. She is keenly aware of the burden that caregiving imposes on families, and of their own manifold need for emotional support. This stems from her own experience, parenting two sons with behavioral health disability and another with a physical handicap, sadly losing one of them—personal challenges that haven't distracted from her care for patients. Mary's long and tireless dedication to others has been driven in part by her passion for social justice. She is a strong supporter of women's rights, environmental causes, and voting rights. Mary was marching for these causes as a 13-year-old in the 1960s; and only recently was on the picket line at the Women's March. Mary Marinelli isn't resting on her well-earned laurels. In fact, she's just one class shy of her master's degree.



EURESIA SHIELDS

Euresia Shields is the model of that energetic and selfless older person we all have—or have had—in our lives. Born in 1954, the eldest of five, she worked for 30 years for the United States Postal Service. While there, she was the one who decorated her department for the holidays and always looked for a chance to donate time and money to charity. Now retired, she is a devoted and loving mother (of two), nana (of three, plus three “bonus grands”), sister, and friend. Her hobbies include loving on the nana babies, puzzles, traveling, Candy Crush, card games, and an occasional trip to Greentown Casino. She's compassionate and supportive of family and friends without hesitation or applause. She fills in the gaps at a moment's notice. Every day, she assists in caregiving for the daughter of her friend of 40-plus years. She babysits, provides transportation for airport trips and doctor's appointments, and teaches her oldest grandchild life skills such as filing, knitting, sewing, and tax preparation. Recently she suffered the loss of another sister, her best friend. Rather than be stopped by grief, she used it and took the lead in every step of her sister's home-going, from funeral arrangements to flowers to transportation for relatives. This recognition is well deserved, as Euresia Shields is the definition of an unsung hero.



BOBBIE TARBUNAS

Bobbie Tarbunas, who emigrated to this country from Croatia, is a retired RN who has worked in healthcare her whole life. Some of the friends she made here as a member of Thursday Brushes, a weekly gathering of painters, weren't aware at first of her professional history but knew her simply as Bobbie, an artist and family woman. But again and again, over the years, they have seen her as a tireless advocate for people in need, especially people with medical issues. They have seen her provide meals and counseling to people weathering a crisis. They have seen her ageless energy when working on a cause—individual or social. Recently, when a friend was admitted to a nursing home to recover from surgery for an injury, Bobbie saw that the friend was receiving improper care. She intervened, had the friend moved to the correct department, then went every day to make sure she was getting proper therapy. When a family member was hospitalized, Bobbie stayed with them and would not go home until she was sure they were receiving the treatment she knew was appropriate. As an artist, Bobbie volunteers and has taught classes at the Orion Art Center. She also involves herself in social causes and is a firm believer in participating in the political process, from organizing to voting. She never takes her American citizenship for granted.

A Special Congratulations
TO OUR CLASS OF 2024 AWARDEES!

HANNAN CENTER STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE

Vincent Tilford - *President and CEO*

Vincent Grzywacz, CPA, JD - *Chief Administrative Officer*

Rebecca Soubel Gillespie - *Director of Development and Communications*

Paul Jirasek - *Office Manager*

ARTS AND CULTURE

Richard B. Reeves, Jr. - *Director of Arts and Culture*

Pat Baldwin, SDC - *Manager of Beyond U*

ZENA BAUM SENIOR SERVICE CENTER/SOCIAL WORK

Melissa Draughn, LMSW - *Director of Social Work*

Susan M. Probert, LMSW - *Community Outreach Coordinator*

Justice Cook - *Program Manager, My Neighborhood Connections Program*

Belinda Croft, BSW - *Daybreak Program Manager*

Jason Hollingshed - *Daybreak Program Lead Assistant*

Akinia Brooks - *Daybreak Program Assistant*

Portia Ross-Morehead - *Daybreak Program Assistant*

Carolyn Paul - *Volunteer Program Manager*

Adrienne M. Lane, BSW, MSW, LLMSW - *Community Social Worker*



KAYROD GALLERY

HANNAN CENTER

Established in 1994, the Ellen Kayrod Gallery hosts diverse older adult artists, professional and amateur, in exhibits throughout the year. An integral part of the Detroit arts community, the gallery provides a venue for older artists and the community to come together for artistic exploration and discovery.



GALLERY & GIFT SHOP HOURS

Monday - Friday | 10AM - 3PM | 4750 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201

Free parking available behind the building

For group tours or after-hours visits, please contact
Richard Reeves Jr., Director of Arts and Culture | 313.833.1300 | reeves@hannan.org

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT?

The Kayrod Gallery Gift Shop carries a wide selection of artwork, jewelry, clothing, and more created by local artists.



4750 Woodward Avenue, Detroit MI 48201 | 313.833.1300

www.hannan.org





FACILITY RENTAL

BOOKING

To discuss your event/meeting and secure rental space, please call 313.833.1300 ext. 11 or email pjirasek@hannan.org

www.hannan.org



Black Box Theater



Kayrod Gallery

Located in the heart of Detroit's Midtown neighborhood, Hannan Center is the perfect place for your meeting or special event!

- Parties
- Corporate Meetings
- Weddings
- Memorials
- Plays
- Book Readings
- Spoken Word
- Art Exhibits
- Movie Screenings
- Concerts

HANNAN CENTER | 4750 Woodward Avenue, Detroit MI 48201

Your rental fees support the programs and services of Hannan Center, whose mission is to preserve the dignity and enhance the quality of life for older adults 55+ in Michigan.



Congratulations!

AARP Michigan congratulates the exceptional honorees of the Hannan Center's 70 Over Seventy Next Chapter Awards, who remind us that impact is truly ageless.

As you continue to inspire and uplift our communities, we're here to support the caregivers who make it all possible. Visit aarpmi.org/care for resources designed to help caregivers empower their loved ones, ensuring they can live independently and keep making a difference. Together, let's celebrate the legacy of those who keep our communities thriving.



Scan for Caregiving Resources



It's time to get Medicare-ready

Learn about your plan options from a licensed sales agent—with no obligation to enroll

Have Medicare questions? A licensed sales agent can explain how it all works. Get answers to questions like:

- How much will my insurance cost each year?
- How much will my prescriptions cost?
- Are my current doctors in Humana's network?
- Does this plan cover me when I'm traveling?

More than a health plan

Humana's Medicare Advantage plans are designed to go above and beyond, with benefits that do more than you might expect. We call that human care.



Call a licensed Humana sales agent



ANDREA DENINE MOORE

248-224-8825 (TTY: 711)

AMOORE151@HUMANA.COM

Humana® A more human way to healthcare®

Humana is a Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO and PFFS organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana plan depends on contract renewal. **At Humana, it is important you are treated fairly.** Humana Inc. and its subsidiaries comply with applicable federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, ancestry, ethnicity, marital status, religion or language. **English:** ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call **877-320-1235 (TTY: 711)**. **Español (Spanish):** ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **877-320-1235 (TTY: 711)**. **繁體中文 (Chinese):** 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 **877-320-1235 (聽障專線: 711)**。



ACA CARE SHUTTLE PROGRAM COMING SOON



@DetroitACA



(313)831-1790



Every street is a road to opportunity.

At Comerica Bank, we believe when everyone in our community succeeds, we all succeed.

That's why we've invested over **\$20 million** in affordable housing, financial education and workforce development for lower-income communities, and donated more than **60,000 hours** of volunteer time.



MEMBER FDIC. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER.
CB-652171-03-01 01/23



CPAs | ADVISORS

GJC is a proud sponsor of the **Hannan Center's 2024**

70 Over Seventy Next Chapter Awards

Big firm skills, boutique firm service

GJC is an independent CPA firm and professional service corporation, servicing the Detroit metropolitan area for more than 80 years.

gjc-cpa.com

Chicago

110 N. Wacker Dr,
Suite 2500
Chicago, IL
872.465.1330

Cincinnati

201 E. Fifth St,
Suite 1900
Cincinnati, OH
513.766.9415

Detroit

1001 Woodward Ave,
Suite 850
Detroit, MI
313.965.2655

Morgan Stanley



Morgan Stanley is proud to support

Hannan Center 70 Over Seventy The Next Chapter Award Winners

Gary W. Jbara, CIMA®, CRPS®

Institutional Consulting Director
Managing Director, Wealth Management
800-819-0949
gary.w.jbara@morganstanley.com

Shawn P. Kelly, CFP®

Senior Vice President
Financial Advisor
800--852-2070
shawn.p.kelly@morganstanley.com

35055 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 101
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



HAP CareSource™

HAPCareSource.com